Chichikogusa

Chapter 25

BY TAGAWA MI

Antisense Scanslations

Translations - Ferdverel

Cleaning/Lettering - Arieea

QCing - Thestripedone

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THIS IS THE FIFTH VOLUME. AND I'VE FINALLY PICKED UP THE PACE OF RELEASE! YOU SAY IT HASN'T CHANGED MUCH? SORRY...

5

ちちこぐさ

【父子草】

田川ミ

BLADE COMICS

ち ち こ ぐ さ

【父子草】

5

田川ミ

MAG Garden

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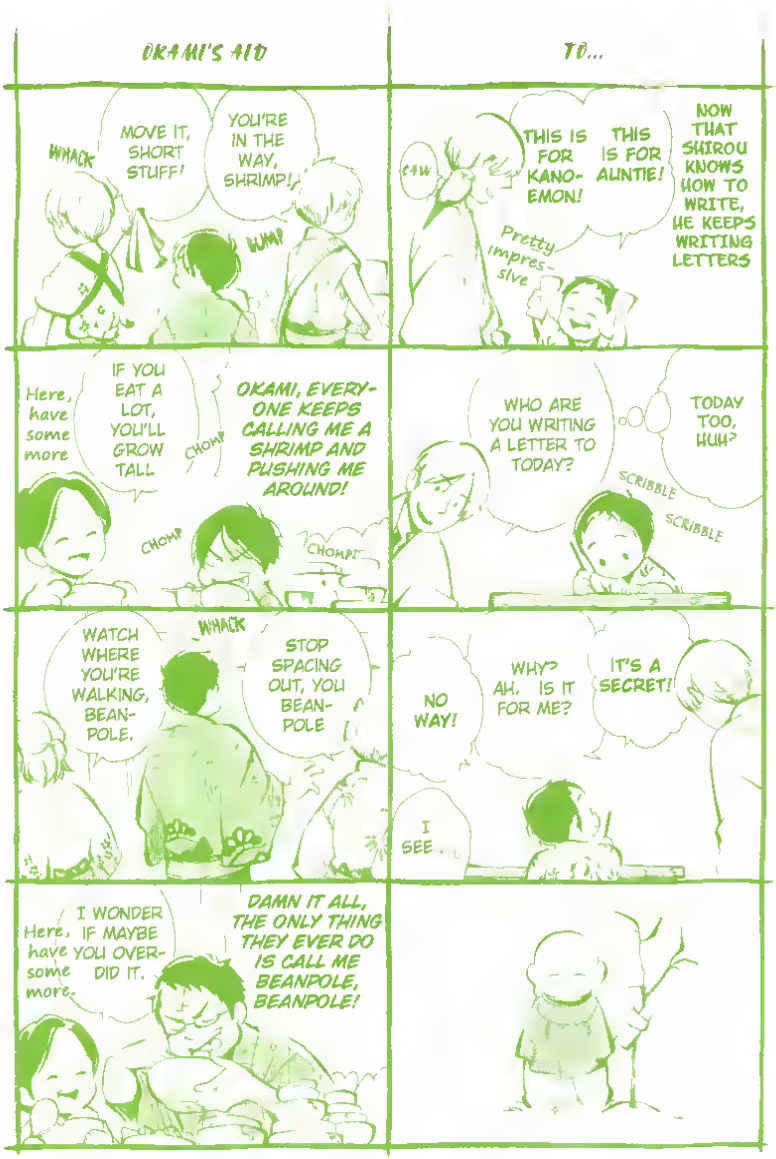
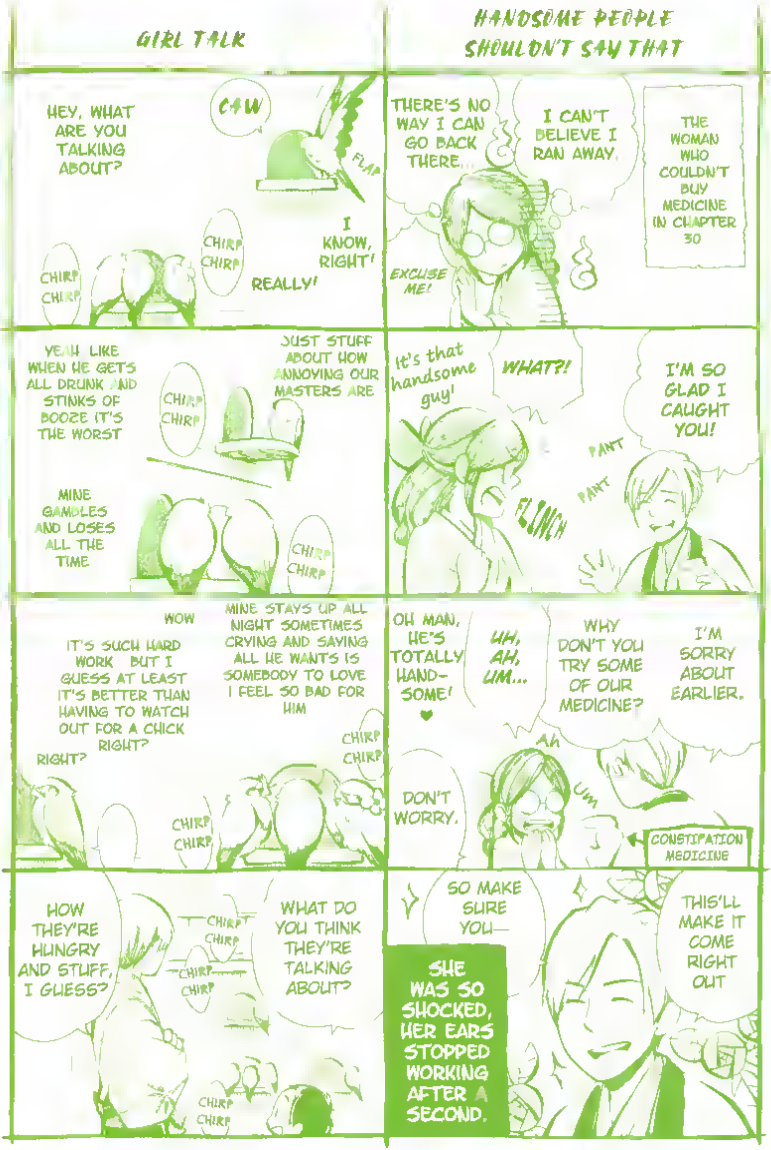
マッグガーデン

ちちこぐさ

BREAKING APART FROM HIS FIRST FRIEND, AND A NEW MEETING... EACH DAY BRINGS SHIROU CLOSER TO ADULT-HOOD. TORAKICHI'S JOURNEY BRINGS HIM CLOSE TO SOME OLD MEMORIES.


OKAMI'S AID
TO...
WHACK
MOVE IT, SHORT STUFF!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY, SHRIMP!
BUMP
AAW
THIS IS FOR KANO-EMON!
THIS IS FOR AUNTIE!
Pretty impressive
NOW THAT SHIROU KNOWS HOW TO WRITE, HE KEEPS WRITING LETTERS
Here, have some more
IF YOU EAT A LOT, YOU'LL GROW TALL
CHOMP
OKAMI, EVERYONE KEEPS CALLING ME A SHRIMP AND PUSHING ME AROUND!
CHOMP
CHOMP
WHO ARE YOU WRITING A LETTER TO TODAY?
TODAY TOO, HUH?
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE WALKING, BEAN-POLE.
WHACK
STOP SPACING OUT, YOU BEAN-POLE
NO WAY!
WHY? AH. IS IT FOR ME?
IT'S A SECRET!
I SEE.
Here, have some more
I WONDER IF MAYBE YOU OVER-DID IT.
DAMN IT ALL, THE ONLY THING THEY EVER DO IS CALL ME BEANPOLE, BEANPOLE!


GIRL TALK
HANDSOME PEOPLE SHOULDN'T SAY THAT
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
CAW
FLAP
CHIRP CHIRP
I KNOW, RIGHT!
REALLY!
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GO BACK THERE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I RAN AWAY.
THE WOMAN WHO COULDN'T BUY MEDICINE IN CHAPTER 30
EXCUSE ME!
YEAH LIKE WHEN HE GETS ALL DRUNK AND STINKS OF BOOZE IT'S THE WORST
JUST STUFF ABOUT HOW ANNOYING OUR MASTERS ARE
MINE GAMBLES AND LOSES ALL THE TIME
it's that handsome guy!
WHAT?!
I'M SO GLAD I CAUGHT YOU!
PANT
PANT
FLINCH
WOW
IT'S SUCH HARD WORK BUT I GUESS AT LEAST IT'S BETTER THAN HAVING TO WATCH OUT FOR A CHICK RIGHT?
RIGHT?
MINE STAYS UP ALL NIGHT SOMETIMES CRYING AND SAYING ALL HE WANTS IS SOMEBODY TO LOVE I FEEL SO BAD FOR HIM
OH MAN, HE'S TOTALLY HANDSOME!
UH, AH, UM...
WHY DON'T YOU TRY SOME OF OUR MEDICINE?
I'M SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
Ah
UM
DON'T WORRY.
CONSTIPATION MEDICINE
HOW THEY'RE HUNGRY AND STUFF, I GUESS?
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?
SO MAKE SURE YOU—
THIS'LL MAKE IT COME RIGHT OUT
SHE WAS SO SHOCKED, HER EARS STOPPED WORKING AFTER A SECOND.

CHAPTER 25 - MEETINGS AND PARTINGS

CHAPTER 26 - FEELINGS AND LETTERS

CHAPTER 27 - PAPA AND MAMA

CHAPTER 28 - PREMONITION OF LOVE

CHAPTER 29 - UNSTOPPABLE LOVE AND A BREAK

CHAPTER 30 - SHIROU AND THE MEDICINE SELLER

ちちこぐさ
【父子草】

CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

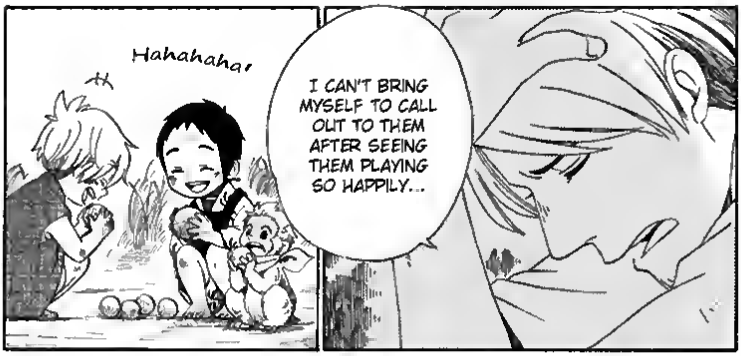
AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

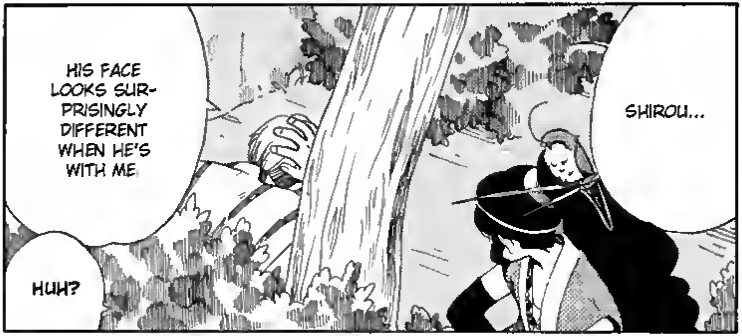
CHAPTER 25:
MEETINGS AND PARTINGS

DAMNIT, THOSE TWO...
ダッ
MY MY.
SFX DASH
SHIROU AND KOMA DISAPPEARED FROM THE INN
GRIN
SHUT IT...
WAIT, WHY ARE YOU FOL-LOWING ME!?
Ha ha ha ha!
HE SURE IS AN ENERGETIC CHILD, ISN'T HE?
IS IT DUE TO THE BLOOD OF HIS FATHER, WHO ONCE MADE OFF WITH THE GIRL HE LOVED?

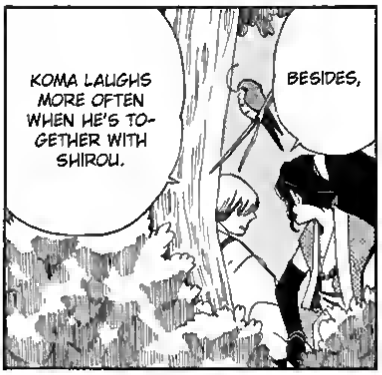
YOU'RE HAVING A LITTLE TOO MUCH FUN WITH THIS!
WELL, IT SEEMS MY MONKEY ALSO WENT WITH THEM. ♪
DID YOU FIND THEM!?
CAW.
FLAP
CAW!
IEJI.
FLAP
PEEK
...

LOOK HOW BIG A BALL I MADE!
Wow!
Haha- haha!
TORA-KICHI?
SIGH...
KOMA'LL MAKE ONE TOO!


Hahahaha.
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO CALL OUT TO THEM AFTER SEEING THEM PLAYING SO HAPPILY...


SHIROU...
HIS FACE LOOKS SURPRISINGLY DIFFERENT WHEN HE'S WITH ME.
HUH?

HOW DO I SAY THIS? IT'S AS IF JUST BEHIND THAT FACE OF HIS, HE ISN'T ACTUALLY ALWAYS A SPOILED CHILD.
IT'S... KIND OF HARD TO EXPLAIN.


KOMA LAUGHS MORE OFTEN WHEN HE'S TOGETHER WITH SHIROU.
BESIDES,

I'VE ALWAYS HAD TO WATCH OUT FOR HIM,
SO IT HONESTLY SURPRISES ME TO SEE HIM TRYING TO PROTECT SOMEONE ELSE.

I'M SURE THE SCAR FROM BEING ABANDONED BY HIS MOTHER IS DEEP.

IS THE ONLY TIME HE CAN FORGET THE HARSHNESS OF REALITY...
IT'S LIKE THE TIME HE SPENDS PLAYING WITH SHIROU...

SIGH...
ALL I THOUGHT ABOUT WAS TRIVIAL STUFF LIKE HOW SAD IT WAS FOR KOMA TO BE ALONE ALL THE TIME, OR HOW NICE IT WOULD BE IF HE COULD GET ALONG WITH SHIROU.
THEY'RE ONLY GOING TO BE TOGETHER FOR A FEW DAYS IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO IF THEY DO GET ALONG, WOULDN'T SEPARATING BE EVEN HARDER ON THEM?
I...
TRIED TO THINK ABOUT THEIR FEELINGS,
BUT ALL I ENDED ENDED UP DOING WAS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE.
...
HON-ESTLY.
YOUR ATTITUDE'S THE ONLY THING THAT'S AWKWARD.

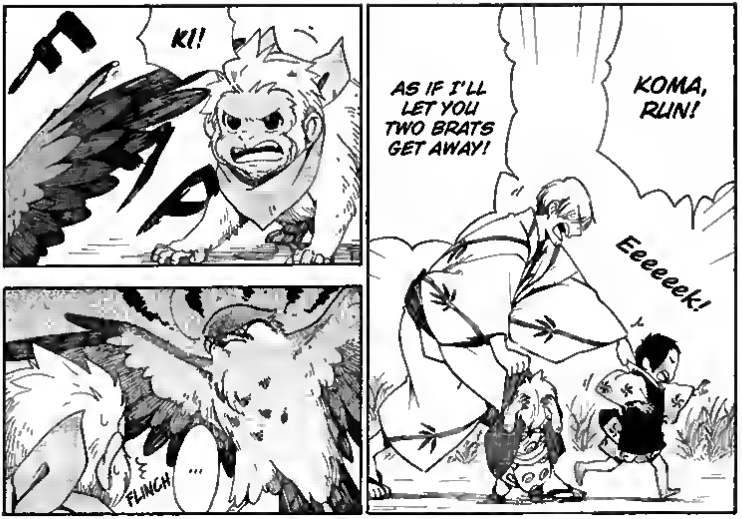
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU PLANNED FOR THEM TO MEET.
DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE THERE TO GUIDE .. EVERY SINGLE MEETING AND PARTING IN THEIR FUTURE?
PEOPLE'S FATES ARE INEVITABLE COINCIDENCES, TORAKICHI.
IT WAS ESSENTIAL FOR BOTH OF THEM THAT THEY MEET,
AND THEIR PARTING WILL BE JUST THE SAME.

THE TIMES I PARTED WITH THE ONES WHO CHERISHED ME...
WERE ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT.
CRUEL PEOPLE. KIND PEOPLE. INDIFFERENT PEOPLE.
I'M HERE NOW BECAUSE OF THE MANY MEETINGS AND PARTINGS I EXPERIENCED.
EVER SINCE I WAS OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER, I SPENT MY CHILDHOOD WANDERING AROUND VARIOUS PLACES ALL ALONE.
SHOULDN'T YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT NOT EVERY PARTING IS A PAINFUL ONE?
EVERY PARTING ONLY HELPED ME GROW AND BECOME STRONGER.
BUT,
BECAUSE OF THE VERY PEOPLE I HAD STRONG BONDS WITH,

LOVE ISN'T JUST ABOUT BEING TO-GETHER.

IS ALSO A FORM OF HAPPINESS.
HAVING A RELA-TIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE THAT CONNECTS YOUR HEARTS..
...

SHIROU!
KOMA!
HEY!
FLINCH
STAND
?
!?
IT'S
PAPA...


KI!
AS IF I'LL LET YOU TWO BRATS GET AWAY!
KOMA, RUN!
Eeeeeek!
FLINCH
...

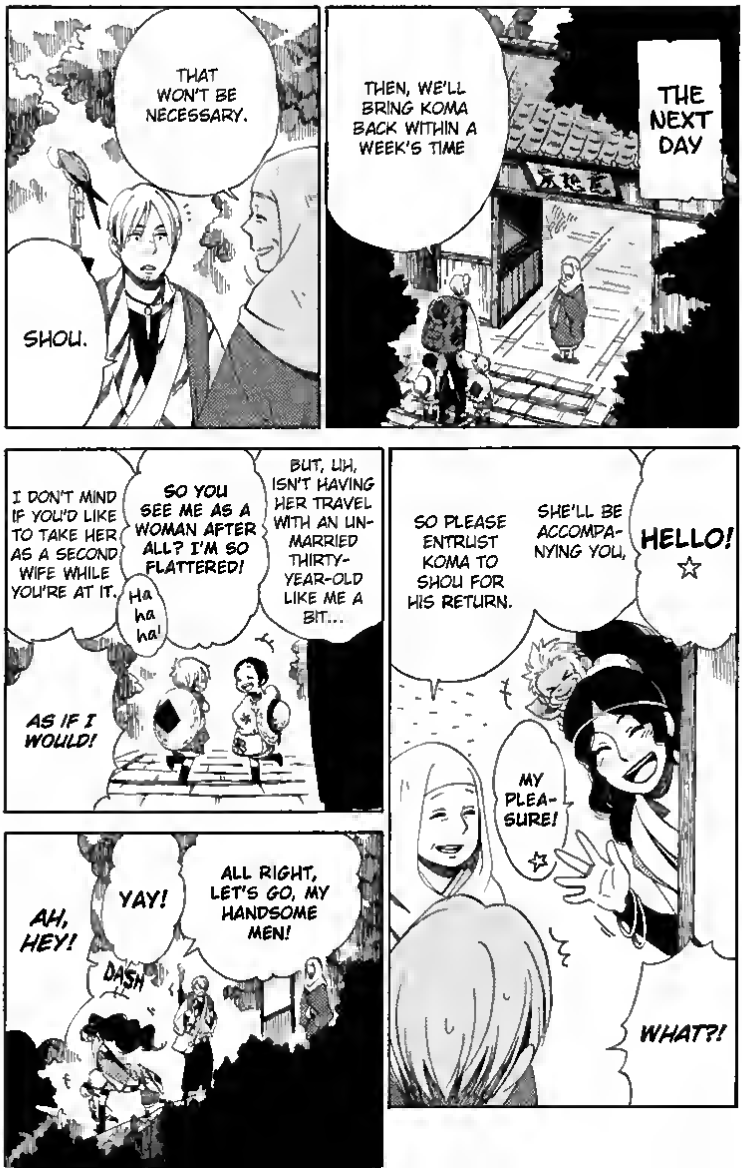
NOT TO MENTION SNEAKING OFF FROM THE SECOND FLOOR! WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO IF YOU FELL OFF THE ROOF!?
YOU HAD ME WORRIED SICK, RUNNING OFF WITHOUT SAYING A WORD!
YOU WOULDN'T GET AWAY WITH JUST A SCRATCH!
...
GOT SPANKED
STING
STING
HONESTLY, WHAT WERE YOU GUYS THINKING!?

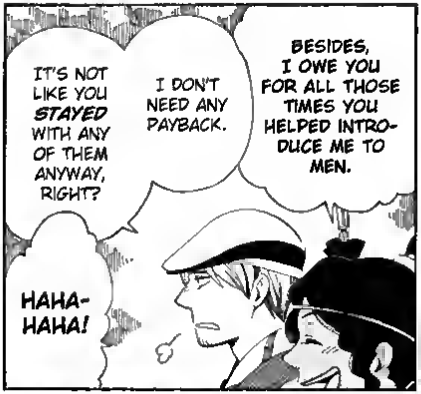
SHIROU TOLD HIM TO GO!
KOMA DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
UH...
PAPA SHOULDN'T GET MAD AT KOMA!!
SFX: THRUST
LISTEN UP, YOU TWO.
PAT
ALL RIGHT.
...
LET ME FINISH!
PA—
!?
FROM HERE ON, WE'RE TAKING KOMA TO JISOUAN.

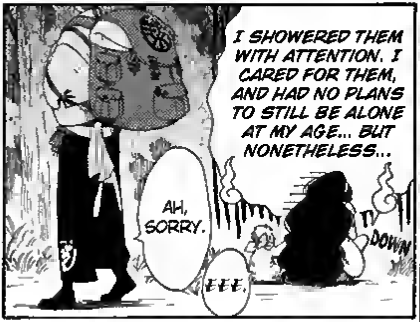
GLANCE
...
NOTHING WILL CHANGE THAT, UNDERSTAND?
SHIROU WILL BE TRAVELING WITH ME, JUST THE TWO OF US, JUST LIKE BEFORE.
FROM NOW ON, JISOUAN IS GOING TO BE KOMA'S NEW HOME.
SO BEFORE THAT, WE NEED TO HAVE A PROPER FAREWELL.
LET'S GO TO THE SEA.

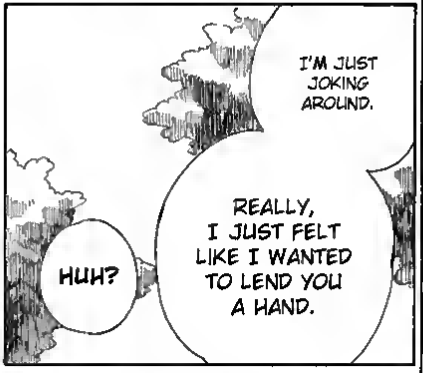
TORA-KICHI,
YOU—
HUH?
SPARKLE
IF THESE TWO...
CAN MAKE JUST ONE GOOD MEMORY TOGETHER, ISN'T IT A GOOD THING?
WELL, I ORIGINALLY WAS HEADED THAT WAY ANYWAY, SO THAT'S NO PROBLEM.
IT TAKES A GROWN MAN A FULL DAY TO WALK TO THE SEA FROM HERE, YOU KNOW!? YOU CAN'T JUST...
WE'LL GET PERMISSION FROM THE TEMPLE TO TAKE KOMA TO THEM A LITTLE BIT LATER FIRST.
YOU...

IN THAT CASE, I'LL ALSO PUT IN A WORD WITH THE ABBOT.
SUIREN.
!
I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
Ha ha
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS.
BUT BE SURE NOT TO OVERDO THINGS.
...
WE REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH JISOUIAN
AND SO...


THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
SHOU.
THEN, WE'LL BRING KOMA BACK WITHIN A WEEK'S TIME
THE NEXT DAY
I DON'T MIND IF YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE HER AS A SECOND WIFE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
SO YOU SEE ME AS A WOMAN AFTER ALL? I'M SO FLATTERED!
Ha ha ha!
BUT, UH, ISN'T HAVING HER TRAVEL WITH AN UNMARRIED THIRTY-YEAR-OLD LIKE ME A BIT...
AS IF I WOULD!
SO PLEASE ENTRUST KOMA TO SHOU FOR HIS RETURN.
SHE'LL BE ACCOMPANYING YOU,
HELLO! ☆
MY PLEASURE! ☆
WHAT?!
AH, HEY!
YAY!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO, MY HANDSOME MEN!
DASH

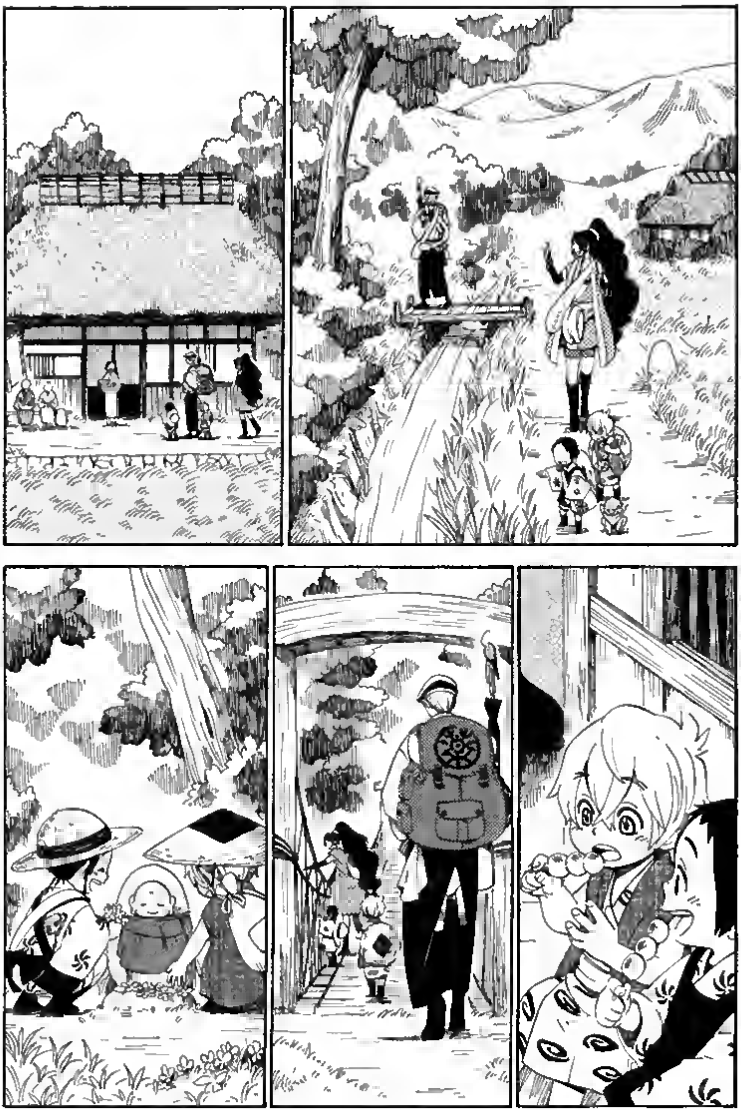

BESIDES, I OWE YOU FOR ALL THOSE TIMES YOU HELPED INTRODUCE ME TO MEN.
I DON'T NEED ANY PAYBACK.
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU *STAYED* WITH ANY OF THEM ANYWAY, RIGHT?
HAHA-HAHA!


I SHOWERED THEM WITH ATTENTION. I CARED FOR THEM, AND HAD NO PLANS TO STILL BE ALONE AT MY AGE... BUT NONETHELESS...
AH, SORRY.
EEE.
DOWN


I'M JUST JOKING AROUND.
REALLY, I JUST FELT LIKE I WANTED TO LEND YOU A HAND.
HUH?

ISN'T THIS GOING TO SCREW UP YOUR SHOW BUSINESS PLANS!?
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING URGENT FOR THE TIME BEING.
AND I CAN ALWAYS JUST DO STREET PERFORMANCES.

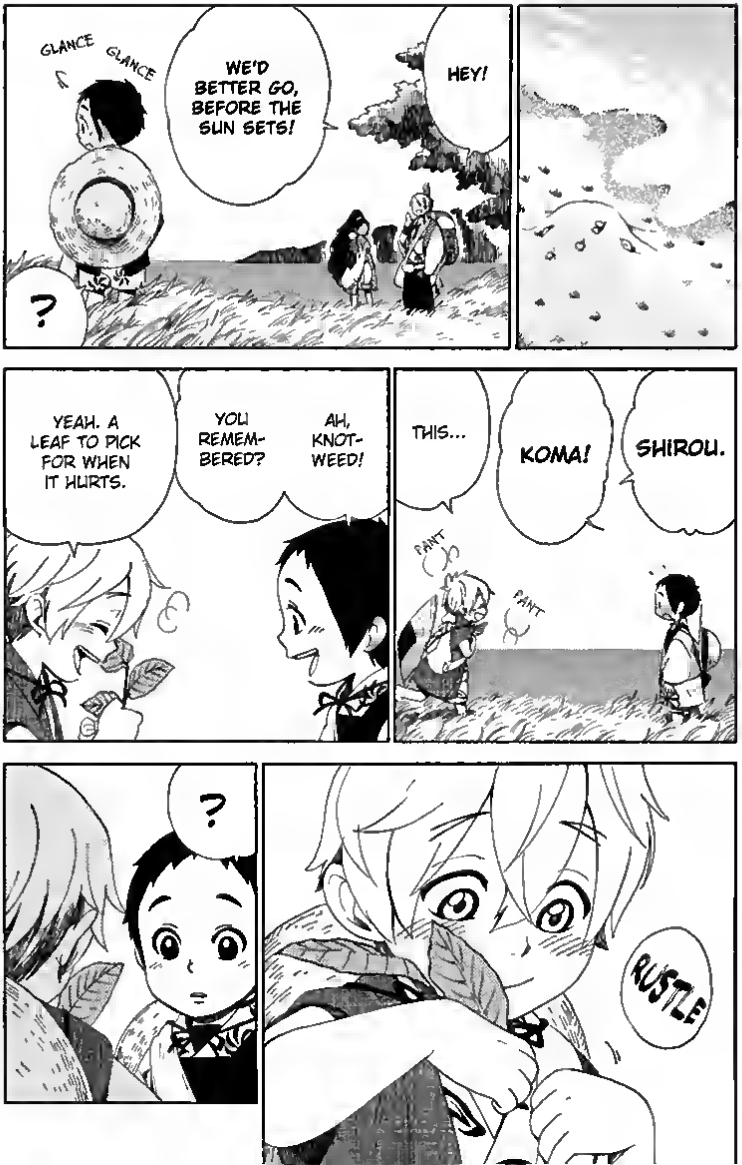
WELL, I WAS JUST THINKING; SOMEHOW, HE'S TURNED OUT TO BE SUCH A GREAT FATHER. YOU KNOW?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE FELT MY HEART FLUTTER ON YOUR BEHALF.
WHAT!?
AH, YEAH.
PAPA, LET'S HURRY!
AHA-HAHA!
LIKE HELL!
WERE YOU EXPECTING SOMETHING ELSE?
LIKE THE FEELING THAT ARISES WHEN YOU SEE A KITTEN OR SOMETHING, YOU KNOW?
SNICKER SNICKER



JUG BAKE

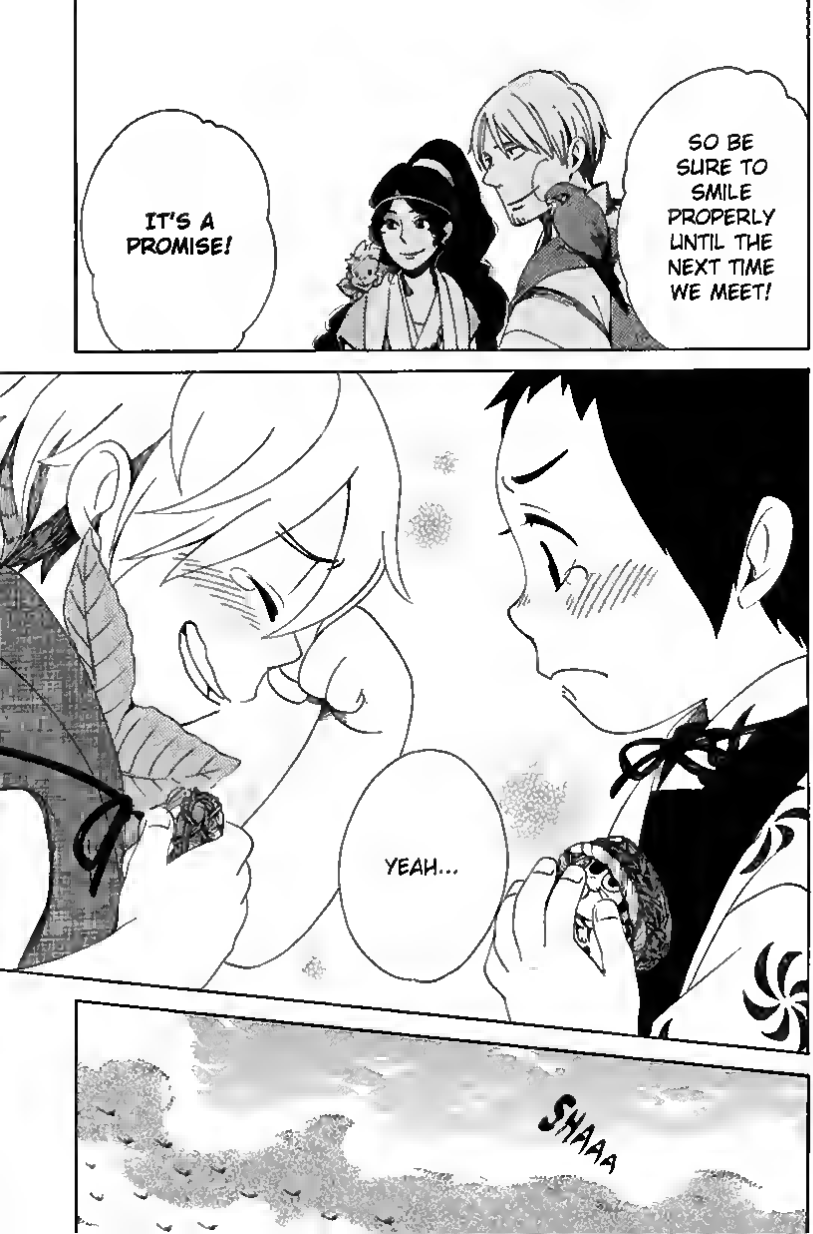
SHAAAAA
WOW!
WE'RE AT THE SEA!
...
LET'S GO, KOMA!
O—
OKAY.
ONLY GO IN UP TO YOUR FEET!
OK?
THUMP THUMP
SHIROU...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
...
ALRIGHT, ENISHI. LET'S GO TOO!
AAH, I'M SO TIRED.
EEE!
THUD

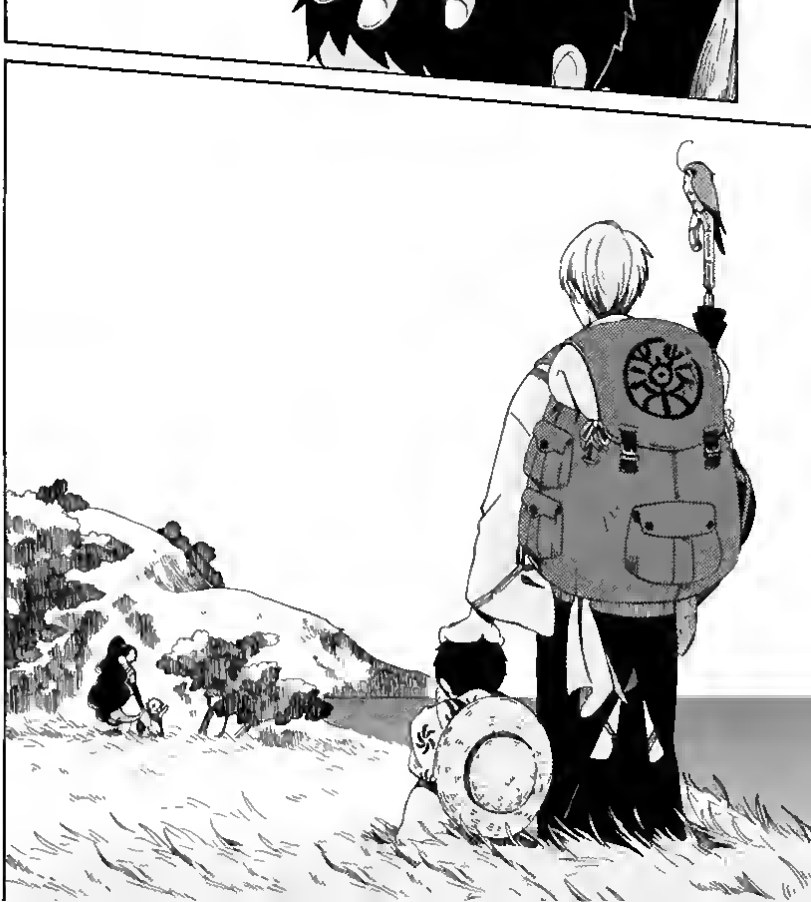
SHAAAA
Yay!
Yay!
Waah!
AAAH!
SPLASH
SHOCK
I WISH YOU COULD SEE THIS SCENE, TOO,
SHIORI.


GLANCE
GLANCE
?
WE'D BETTER GO, BEFORE THE SUN SETS!
HEY!
YEAH. A LEAF TO PICK FOR WHEN IT HURTS.
YOU REMEM-BERED?
AH, KNOT-WEED!
THIS...
KOMA!
SHIROU.
PANT
PANT
?
RUSTLE

I'LL PUT THIS LEAF RIGHT IN HERE...
UM. WHENEVER KOMA GETS LONELY, IT GETS TIGHT HERE AND HURTS.
CLUTCH
WE HAD A LOT OF FUN, RIGHT?
WE'LL PLAY TOGETHER AGAIN, RIGHT...?
PLOP
SHIROU,
KOMA WILL BE ALL RIGHT.
PLOP

?
SHOVE
HERE!
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.
IT'S THE SAME AS MINE!
PAPA BOUGHT IT YESTERDAY.
See?
PONG
THIS DOG DOLL CAN HELP YOU LOCK UP YOUR CRYING.
CLENCH
...


SO BE SURE TO SMILE PROPERLY UNTIL THE NEXT TIME WE MEET!
IT'S A PROMISE!
YEAH...
SHAAA

PAT


SLEEPLESS NIGHT
STEP
Snore
POUR

EXTRA STORY 21- END

Chichikogusa

Chapter 26

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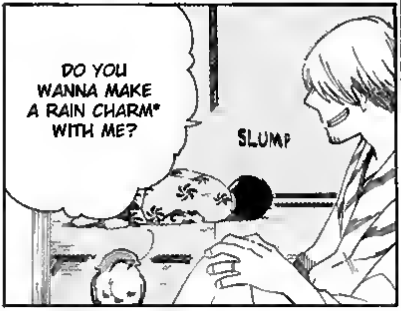
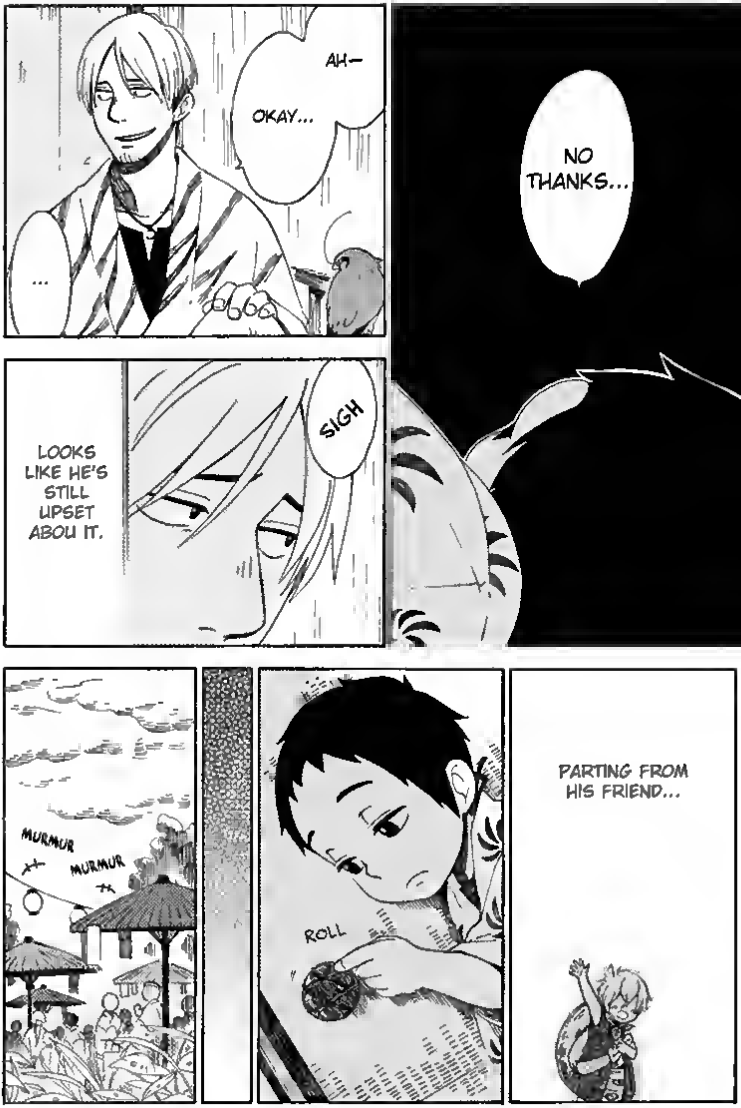
SFX. FFFSSHHHH

RAINING AGAIN, HUH? YOU MUST BE BORED, SINCE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GO OUT TO PLAY LATELY.
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED. IT'S THE RAINY SEASON, AFTER ALL...



*RAIN CHARM - TERUTERUBOUZU, PAPER DOLLS SHAPED LIKE MONKS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO BRING GOOD WEATHER

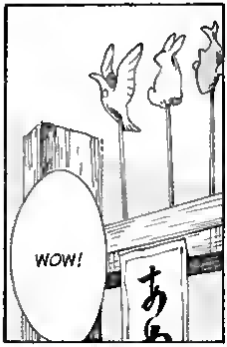

AH—
OKAY...
...
NO THANKS...
SIGH
LOOKS LIKE HE'S STILL UPSET ABOU IT.
MURMUR
MURMUR
ROLL
PARTING FROM HIS FRIEND...

SHIROU?!
KANOEMON!
He sure doesn't mind that smelly old fart..
EEE!
SHUDDER
GRAB
RUB RUB RUB
IT'S BEEN HALF A YEAR, HASN'T IT?! BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS SUCH A CUTE KID NO MATTER WHEN I SEE YOU, AREN'T YOU? AHH!

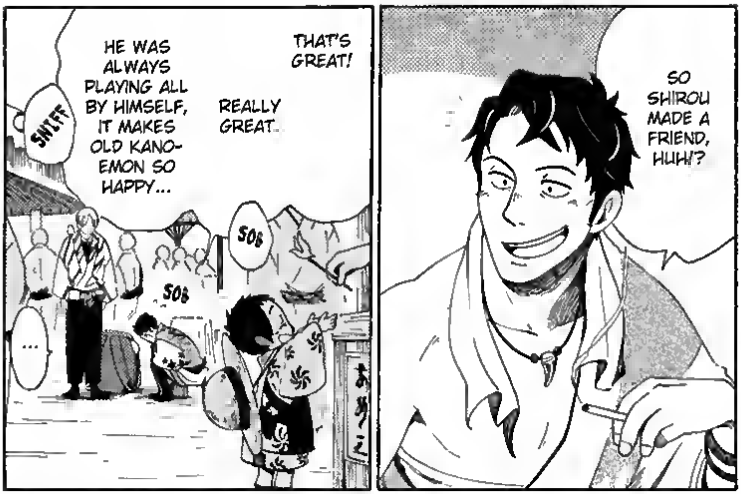
I HAPPENED TO HEAR FROM A BUSINESS PARTNER THAT YOU WERE WORKING HERE, SO...
NAH,
WHAT A COINCIDENCE, MEETING YOU GUYS HERE!
IS THAT SO? SO YOU WANTED TO SEE YOUR BIG BRO THAT BADLY, HUH?

THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S A LOCAL TALE, BUT IN THE DEPTHS OF A CERTAIN MOUNTAIN, ON NIGHTS WHEN A FULL MOON SHINES IN THE SKY, THERE'S A MYSTERIOUS SPRING THAT'S CONNECTED TO THE MOON!
IT'S YOUTH-RESTORING WATER THAT'S SAID TO HAVE GUSHED FROM THE MOON ITSELF! IT HIDES BLEMISHES!
変若水
THIS IS WATER FROM THAT VERY SPRING!
HM? THAT'S CALLED REJUVENATING WATER.
HEY, HEY, KANOE-MON, WHAT'S THIS!?

BOTTLE: REJUVENATING WATER



WAIT, HOW MUCH IS IT?!
WHAT? IS THAT TRUE?!
LISTEN UP, MADAM OVER THERE! JUST BY APPLYING THIS WATER TO YOUR SKIN EVERYDAY, YOU'LL SOON BE SAYING, "OH, HOW MYSTERIOUS, THIS IS QUITE USEFUL FOR ALL MY STRESS WRINKLES, BLOTCHES, AND PIMPLES!" WHY, EVEN YOUR HUSBAND WILL PROBABLY SAY "HOW PRETTY AND REFRESHING, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN EVER LEAVE YOU!" ALL THESE AMAZING RESULTS JUST FROM THIS SMALL BOTTLE!
LET ME SEE TOO!
Aah!
...
BAM


SO SHIROU MADE A FRIEND, HUH!?
THAT'S GREAT!
REALLY GREAT...
HE WAS ALWAYS PLAYING ALL BY HIMSELF, IT MAKES OLD KANO-EMON SO HAPPY...
SNIFF
SOB
SOB
...

SIGH. CANDY

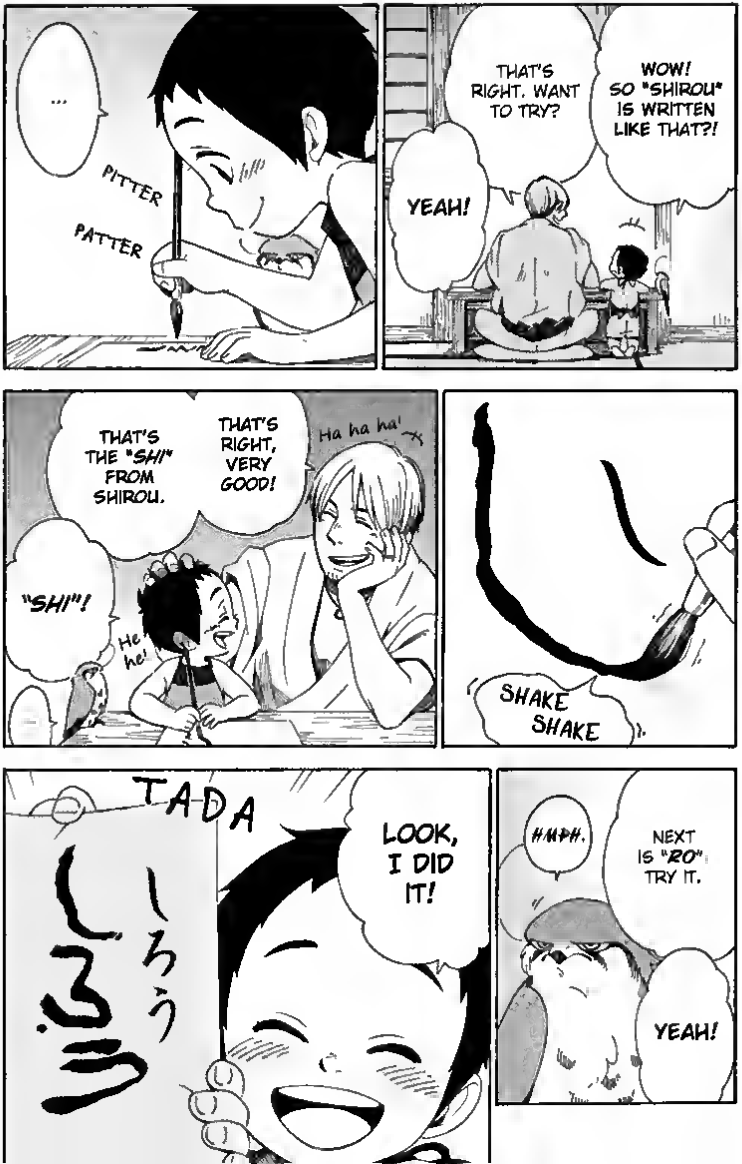
I GUESS...
...
GLANCE

IDIOT.
WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN, TEACHING A 4-YEAR-OLD KID HIS LETTERS...
HUH?
HOW ABOUT TEACHING SHIROU HOW TO WRITE?
THE ISSUE NOW IS SHIROU'S FEELINGS FROM BEING SEPARATED FROM HIS FRIEND, RIGHT?
IN THAT CASE, WHY NOT HAVE HIM LEARN HOW TO WRITE SO HE CAN SEND HIS FRIEND A LETTER OR TWO?
SO SLOW.
AH!
PAT

WHA— THAT'S FAST! IS THAT ALL!? THAT'S WAY TOO QUICK!
SEE YOU LATER, KANOEMON!
WELL, SEE YA.
AS ALWAYS, YOU DON'T PAY ENOUGH ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS. YOU SHOULD LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS TO YOUR DEPENDABLE OLDER BROTHER, AFTER ALL...
PHEW.
WAVE WAVE
BYE BYE!
...
I JUST FIGURED THAT SEEING YOUR FACE MIGHT CHEER SHIROU UP A BIT, SO WE CAME FOR A QUICK PEEK, THAT'S ALL.
WE'LL GET OUT OF YOUR WAY!
HON- ESTLY. TO CHEER UP SHIROU, HUH?
HE'S SO EASY TO READ...
PHEW.

PAPA'S GOING TO TEACH ME LETTERS?!
YEAH.
IF YOU CAN REMEMBER YOUR LETTERS, KOMA'LL BE HAPPY TOO.
YEAH.
A LETTER?
ポッ
ポッ
YOU WANNA... GIVE IT A TRY?
IF YOU CAN WRITE PROPERLY, THEN WE CAN SEND IEJI TO DELIVER THEM TO KOMA'S PLACE.
YEAH!

HMM, WHERE SHOULD WE START...?
THERE ARE 50 SYLLABIC CHARACTERS, SO...
TAP TAP
FFFSSSSSH
ALL RIGHT!
THEN TONIGHT, WE'LL START YOUR READING AND WRITING PRACTICE!
YAY!
SHINE
THIS IS "SHI".
THIS IS "RO".
THIS IS "U".
SHIROU'S NAME!?
RIGHT, HOW ABOUT WE START WITH YOUR OWN NAME?
YEP. WATCH CLOSELY.

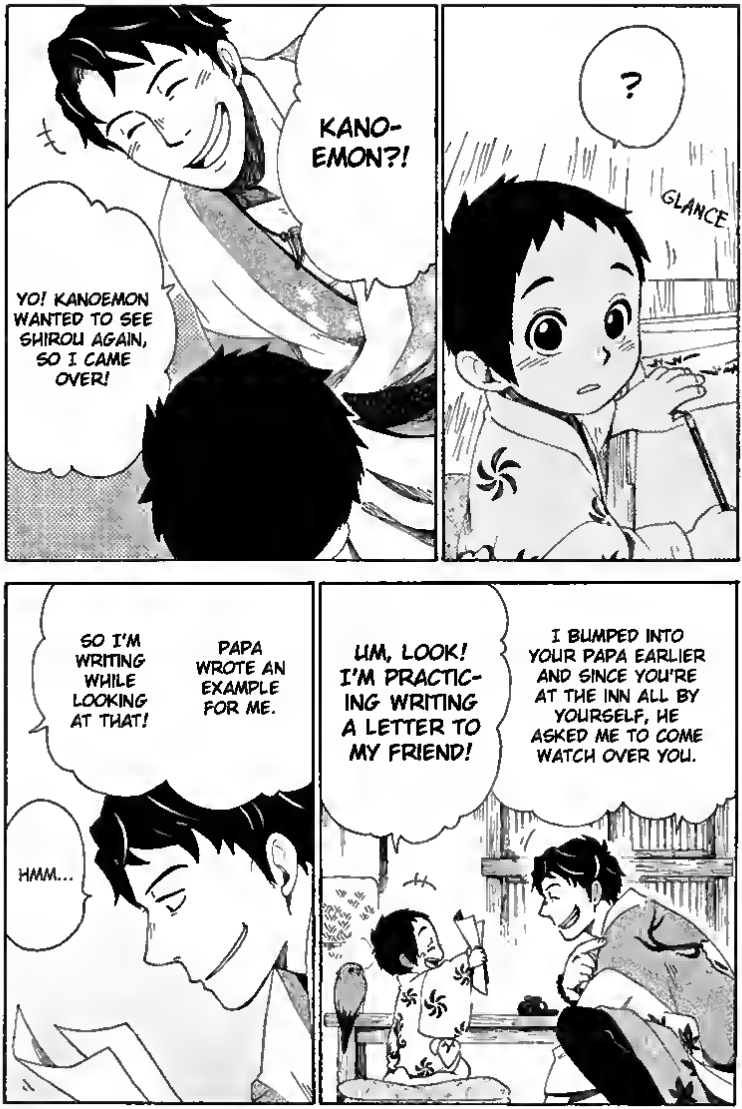

...
PITTER
PATTER
WOW! SO "SHIROU" IS WRITTEN LIKE THAT?!
THAT'S RIGHT. WANT TO TRY?
YEAH!
THAT'S THE "SHI" FROM SHIROU.
THAT'S RIGHT, VERY GOOD!
Ha ha ha!
"SHI"!
He he!
SHAKE SHAKE
TADA
しろう
LOOK, I DID IT!
HMPH.
NEXT IS "RO" TRY IT.
YEAH!

I WONDER IF I CAN WRITE KOMA A LETTER!
I WANT TO WRITE MORE!
SMILE SMILE
OH! PRETTY GOOD FOR YOUR FIRST TIME!
I CAN READ IT.
IS SHIROU GOOD?!
FSSSSHHH
YAY!
THEN IN THAT CASE, HOW ABOUT YOU FIRST DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO WRITE TO KOMA, THEN WE'LL FOCUS ON PRACTICING THE CHARACTERS FOR THAT?
GRRWL

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SHIROU, PAPA HAS TO MAKE A ROUND TO A HOUSE NEAR HERE.
TOTALLY ABSORBED
...
ANOTHER DAY OF RAIN, HUH...
SHIROU.
GASP
YOU SURE HAVE A LOT OF FOCUS.
IT'S RAINING A LOT, SO WOULD YOU LIKE TO STAY AT THE INN AND PRACTICE YOUR LETTERS?
OK.
FLAP

BE A GOOD BOY NOW, SHIROU. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, LET IEJI KNOW RIGHT AWAY, OK?
OKAY. I'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.
IT'S FINE, WE DON'T MIND AT ALL.
I'LL RETURN BY THIS AFTERNOON.
SO,
I'M GOING TO GO CLEAN THE GUEST ROOMS NOW.
ALL RIGHT!
THERE'LL ALWAYS BE SOMEONE IN THIS ROOM, SO DON'T YOU WORRY.
IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU CAN ALREADY READ AND WRITE.
HE HE.
SHIROU WILL PRACTICE WRITING A LOT!
FSSHHH

SHIROU'S WRITING KOMA
SIDE LETTER DEAR KOMA, LET'S PLAY AGAIN-

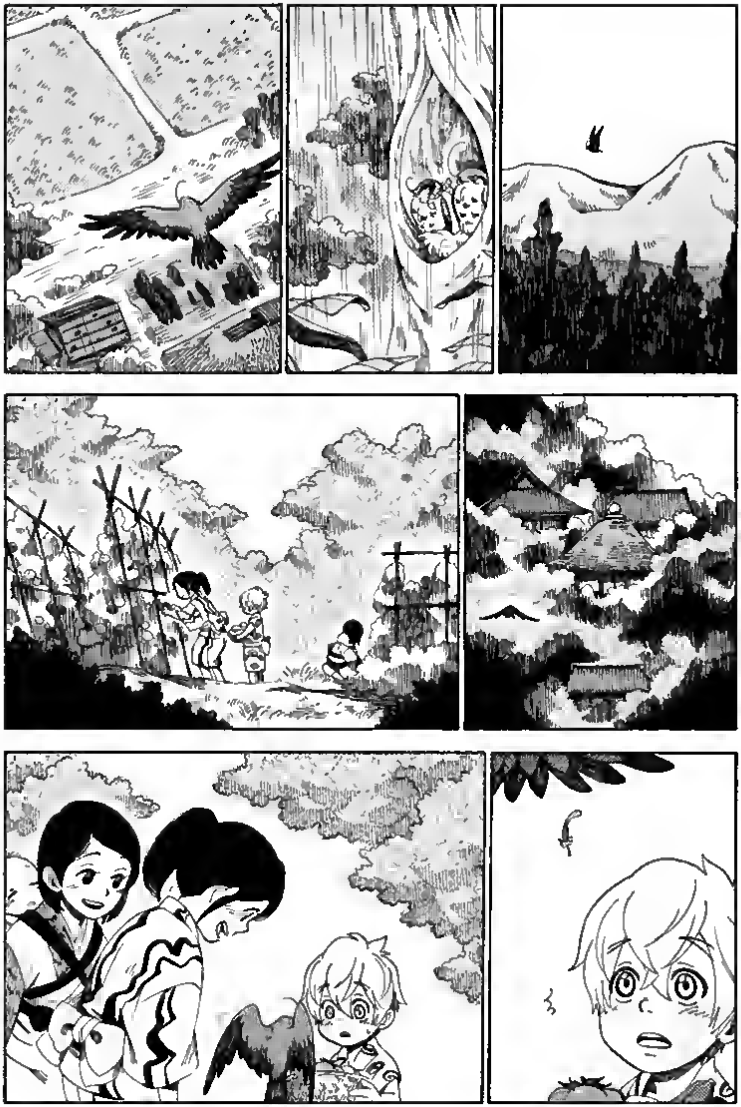

KANO-EMON?!
YO! KANOEMON WANTED TO SEE SHIROU AGAIN, SO I CAME OVER!
?
GLANCE
I BUMPED INTO YOUR PAPA EARLIER AND SINCE YOU'RE AT THE INN ALL BY YOURSELF, HE ASKED ME TO COME WATCH OVER YOU.
UM, LOOK! I'M PRACTIC-ING WRITING A LETTER TO MY FRIEND!
PAPA WROTE AN EXAMPLE FOR ME.
SO I'M WRITING WHILE LOOKING AT THAT!
HMM...

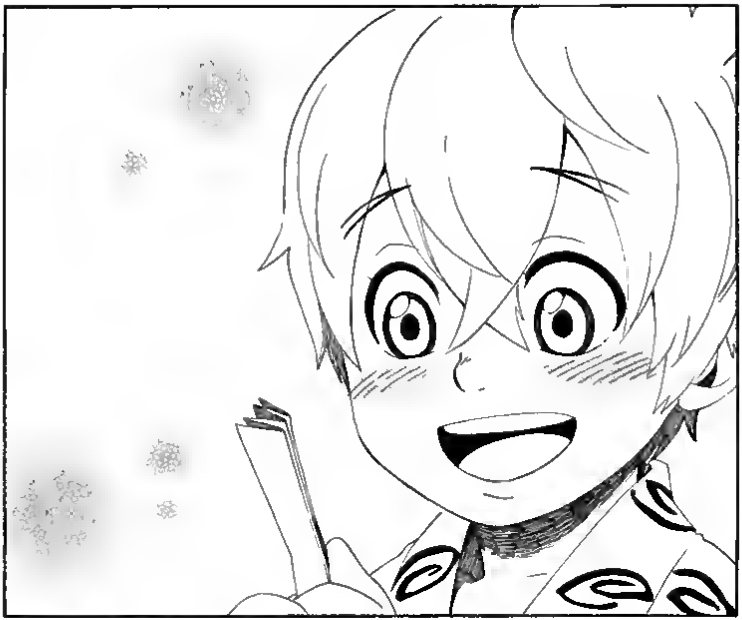
YOUR DAD ALSO LOOKED PRETTY HAPPY ABOUT IT.
PAPA DID?
YEAH!
IT SURE IS GREAT THAT YOU MANAGED TO MAKE A FRIEND, SHIROU.
YOUR PAPA'S HAPPY WHENEVER YOU'RE HAPPY,
AND WHENEVER YOU'RE SAD, YOUR PAPA GETS SAD TOO.
SURE
PAPA TRIED IN HIS OWN AWKWARD WAY TO THINK ABOUT "WHAT SHOULD I DO TO MAKE SHIROU FEEL BETTER?"
THAT'S WHY,
WHEN YOU GOT TO FEELING DOWN AFTER PARTING WAYS WITH YOUR FRIEND,

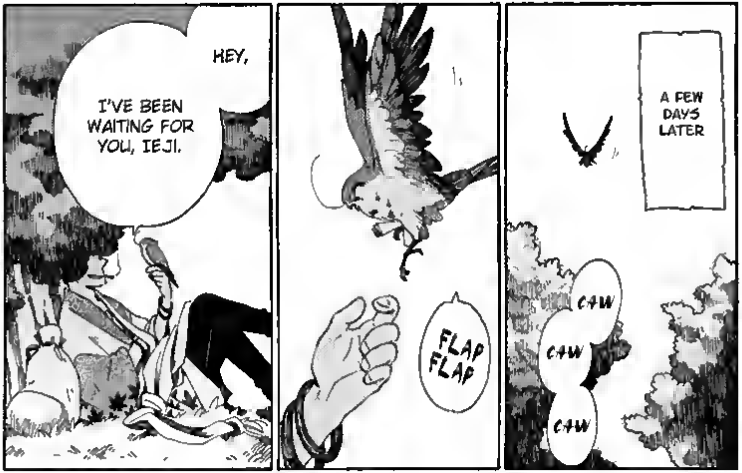
PAPA IS WORRIED ABOUT SHIROU...?
OF COURSE! YOU'RE HIS PRECIOUS ONLY SON!
BUT YOU SEE, WORRYING ABOUT SHIROU IS YOUR PAPA'S JOB.
SO IT'S OKAY TO KEEP ON WORRYING HIM.
PAT
...
OKAY.
BUT,
IF PAPA KEEPS WORRYING, WON'T HE GET TIRED?
YOU'RE SUCH A KIND KID, SHIROU.
IN THAT CASE, HOW ABOUT THIS?

HA HA HA!
OH, YOU SURE DID!
LOOK, LOOK! I FINISHED WRITING THE LETTER TO KOMA!
OH, IT'S PAPA! WELCOME BACK!
YAY!
WITH THIS, WE CAN SEND IEJI TO DELIVER IT WHEN-EVER WE CAN.
IT'D BE GREAT IF IT'LL BE CLEAR SKIES TOMORROW.
...

TUG
ALL RIGHT.
AH, IT'S SUNNY!
THE NEXT MORNING
SLIDE
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
FLAP
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO DELIVER THIS TO KOMA AT JISOUAN.
WELL THEN, IEJI,
HMPH
BYE BYE!






A FEW DAYS LATER
CAW
CAW
CAW
FLAP FLAP
HEY,
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, IEJI.

HOW ABOUT...
THIS?
GOT IT?
I'VE GOT ONE MORE JOB FOR YOU...
IN THAT CASE,
CRINKLE
HOWEVER,
SHIROU, YOU CARE ABOUT YOUR PAPA MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, RIGHT?
YOUR PAPA IS ALWAYS WORRYING ABOUT YOU, SHIROU.
FLAP

RUSTLE
TWO LETTERS?
YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR PAPA THOSE HONEST FEELINGS OF YOURS.
?
おとう
LETTER I LOVE PAPA SHIROU
おとう
だいすきだ
しろう

IF YOU DO THAT, THEN YOU'LL BLOW AWAY ALL OF YOUR PAPA'S WEARINESS IN ONE HIT.
?!
CRINKLE
...

KANOE'S SECRET
LETTER: I LOVE PAPA. SHIROU
UP, UP AND AWAY, SHIROU!
EE!
EE!
THAT OUGHTA MAKE HIM HAPPY.

IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU'VE BEEN A FATHER YOURSELF ONCE!
KANOE, YOU'RE AMAZING! YOU'RE ALMOST BETTER AT HANDLING SHIROU THAN I AM!
He usually cries right away.
HUH? THEN, HOW ABOUT I BECOME SHIROU'S SECOND FATHER?
HA HA HA!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
PHEW...
KOROKU AGE 12

EXTRA STORY 22- END

Chichikogusa

Chapter 27

BY TAGAWA MI

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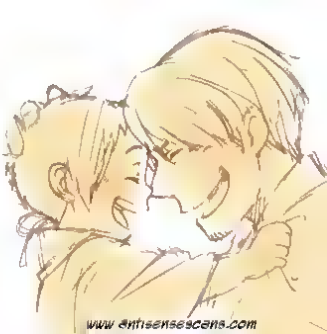

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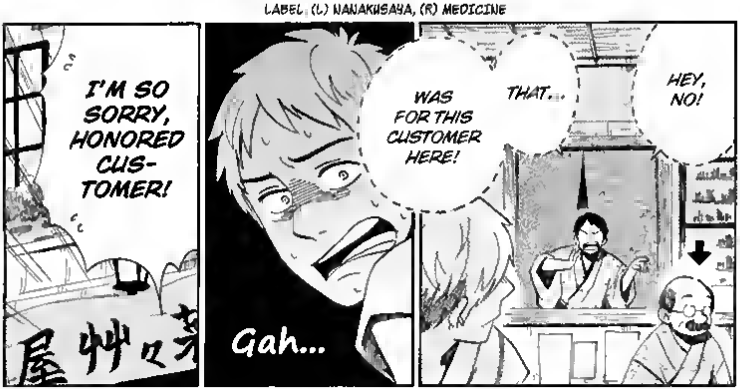
SIGN: NANAKUSAYA

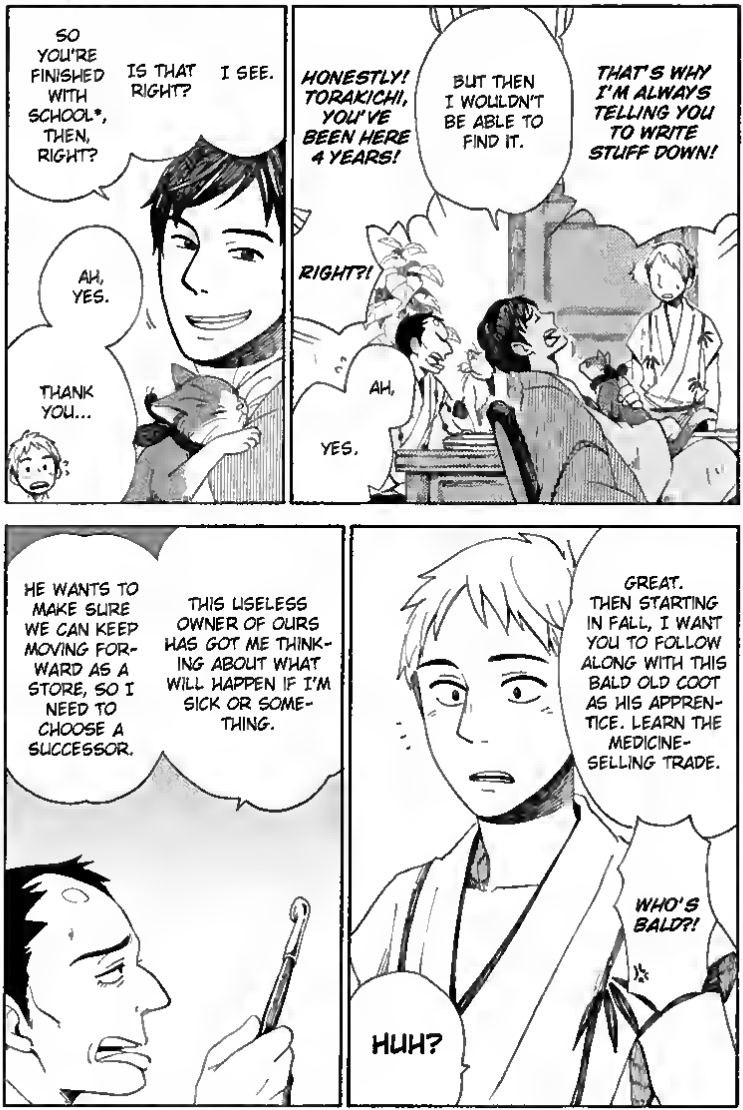
LABEL (L) NANAKUSAYA, (R) MEDICINE



I DON'T REALLY CARE!
SHAKE
SHAKE
THAT IDIOT TORAKICHI TOTALLY GOT IN TROUBLE!
It's awe-some!
BAHAHAHA! HEY, CHIHARU, CHECK IT OUT!
YOU'RE OVER-DOING IT.
Bow
Bow
ACHOO
I CAN'T COMPRE-HEND IT!
DAMNIT! WHY MUST I BE STUCK BACK HERE, EVEN THOUGH I'M SO MUCH BETTER THAN HE IS?!
CHIHARU (14)
YUJIRU (18)
WELL, DON'T BE THAT DOWN ABOUT IT, MEOW.
I SCREWED UP STRAIGHT AWAY.
AH, JEEZ.
I FINALLY GOT TO SERVE THE CUSTOMERS, TOO...

?!
TORAKICHI! SORRY TO BUG YOU WHILE YOU'RE WORKING, BUT DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT, MEOW?
PEEK
YOUNG MASTER?!
FORE-MAN?!
YEAH. JUST NOW.
YOU'RE BACK?
OH, TORAKICHI.
ANYWAY, TAKE A SEAT.
OF COURSE...
BU-BUMP
BU-BUMP
MAN, THIS MUST BE BECAUSE I SCREWED UP...
TORA-KICHI.
HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED HERE NOW, HUH?
HERE IT COMES!
FLINCH

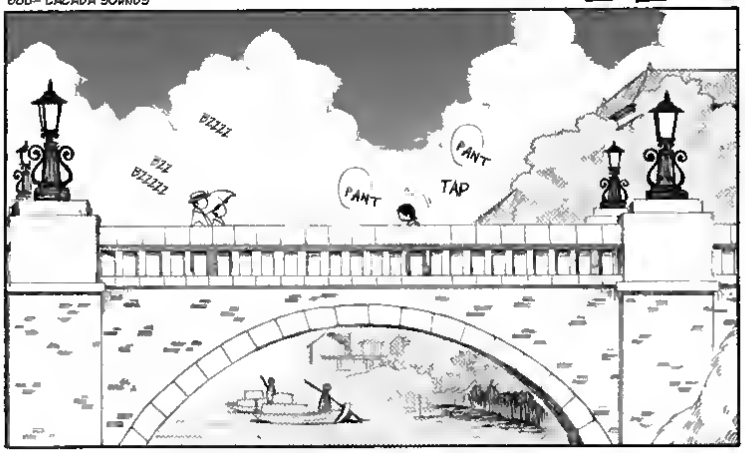
* SPECIFICALLY, HE IS ASKING ABOUT "SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL," WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME AS PRESENT-DAY MIDDLE SCHOOL.

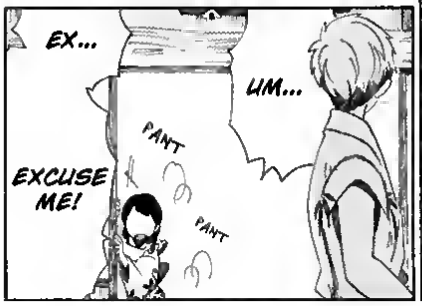

SO YOU'RE FINISHED WITH SCHOOL*, THEN, RIGHT?
IS THAT RIGHT?
I SEE.
AH, YES.
THANK YOU...
HONESTLY! TORAKICHI, YOU'VE BEEN HERE 4 YEARS!
BUT THEN I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FIND IT.
THAT'S WHY I'M ALWAYS TELLING YOU TO WRITE STUFF DOWN!
RIGHT?!
AH, YES.
HE WANTS TO MAKE SURE WE CAN KEEP MOVING FORWARD AS A STORE, SO I NEED TO CHOOSE A SUCCESSOR.
THIS USELESS OWNER OF OURS HAS GOT ME THINKING ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I'M SICK OR SOMETHING.
GREAT. THEN STARTING IN FALL, I WANT YOU TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH THIS BALD OLD COOT AS HIS APPRENTICE. LEARN THE MEDICINE-SELLING TRADE.
WHO'S BALD?!
HUH?

THAT'S HOW IT IS.
BALDY .. UH, AKIMICHI DECIDED YOU'D BE A GOOD FIT FOR IT.
SO RATHER THAN WORKING IN RECEPTION HERE, IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH MORE OF OUR CUSTOMERS.
YOU'VE WANTED TO DO THIS FOR A WHILE NOW ANYWAY, RIGHT?
SPARKLE
YES! I'LL DO MY BEST TO FOLLOW ALONG!
BOW
HA HA, NO NEED TO OVEREXERT YOURSELF.
YOU WON'T BE THAT ENERGETIC FOR LONG.
CAN'T YOU EXERT YOURSELF A LITTLE?!
THEN, I'LL BE GOING!
AH, BY THE WAY, TORAKICHI.
IS THERE A GIRL YOU LIKE RIGHT NOW?

IS THAT THE SORT OF THING YOU THINK IS USEFUL FOR PEOPLE GOING ON A JOURNEY...?
SIGH
...
LOVE IS AS IMPORTANT AS WORK! YOU HAVE TO WORK FOR SOMETHING, SO YOU HAVE TO PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS WHEN YOU CAN!
WELL,
YOU'LL BE AWAY FOR QUITE A WHILE, AFTER ALL.
WHAT?!
IF THERE'S SOME GIRL YOU LIKE, MAKE SURE YOU SQUARE THINGS AWAY WITH HER, GOT IT?
PANT
PANT
YOU'RE STILL IN SCHOOL, THEY CAN'T TAKE EITHER OF YOU.
I DIDN'T WANT TO GO ANYWAY.
TCH!
I'D BE A MUCH BETTER CHOICE THAN HIM FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
WHY JUST TORAKICHI?!
WHAT?!

ZZZ= CACADA SOUNDS





MY BROTHER ...
PLEASE GIVE ME THE MEDI-CINE HE TAKES!

WE DON'T HAVE ANY OF HIS NORMAL MEDICINE.
HE'S FEELING BAD, SO I...
...
UM...
WHAT HAPPENED? YOUR BROTHER'S MEDICINE?
OH, AREN'T YOU THE DAUGHTER FROM SANTENYA?!
PANT
PANT
GASP
PLEASE WAIT A WHILE. I'LL MAKE UP A NEW BATCH QUICKLY...
!
REALLY?! BUT WE GAVE YOU A WEEK'S SUPPLY THREE DAYS AGO. HE SHOULD HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH LEFT STILL...
IT'S NOTHING!
I'M SORRY!
WHAT?!
YES?
?
I WONDER IF TAKA...

I NEED YOUR HELP!
GO FIND THAT GIRL WHO JUST CAME IN HERE,
AND MAKE SURE THERE WASN'T SOME KIND OF MISUN-DERSTANDING!
YES!
TORA-KICHI!
YES!
PANT
PANT
I FORGOT TO ASK FOR HER NAME!
AH...
SLIP
EVEN THOUGH I GOT MY HOPES UP, I'M STILL SCREWING EVERYTHING UP.
CRAP.
WHERE IS SHE?

TWIST
BUMP
EEK!
AH!
GOT YOU!
GRAB
SNATCH

...
BLINK
GLANCE
ARE YOU O...
AH!
?!
UM!
AH!
I, UH I MEAN, I'M...
STARE
IT WAS SO SUDDEN, I JUST— ARE YOU HURT?!
PLEASE PARDON ME!
SORRY! I mean
LEAP!
...

GRIN
AH!
YOU'RE FROM THAT MEDICINE SHOP.
IS THAT RIGHT?!
I KNEW IT!
Y, YEAH.
THAT'S RIGHT...
GULP
HUH?
GASP
...
HMM?

?!
WHAT IS IT?!
WHAT IS THIS?
BU-BUMP
BU-BUMP
AH, IT HURTS.
DID MY BREATH STOP FOR A MINUTE?
PLEASE TAKE CARE.
MY BROTHER IS WAITING, SO I HAVE TO GET BACK.
SLIP
IT'S OKAY.
WHAT?!
AH, OH. MY FOOT, IT JUST...
I...
UH,
WAS TOLD BY THE STORE TO CHECK ON YOUR SITUATION, SO...
HUH?
THRUST

N,
NOT AT ALL!
ALL I EVER DO IS LIFT STUFF AT WORK.
ISN'T THIS HEAVY?
...
UH,
YEAH.
IN THE FALL, I'M GOING TO BE APPRENTICED TO OUR FOREMAN.
WOW,
YOU'RE GOING TO BE A MEDICINE SELLER?
AND,
I'M ABOUT TO GO WORK AS A TRAVELING MEDICINE SELLER, SO I GOTTA BE USED TO CARRYING A HEAVY PACK.
THIS IS NOTHING...
PANT
PANT
CLATTER
CLATTER
I'VE NEVER EVEN LEFT THIS TOWN. I'M SO JEALOUS.
THAT'S AMAZING! YOU'LL GET TO GO ALL OVER.
...

I WANTED TO CARRY HER THE WHOLE WAY.
SHE SAID WE COULD HAVE TAKEN A PALAN-QUIN,
...
BUT...
THANKS!
?!
MY HOUSE LOOKS LIKE A BARN COMPARED TO THIS.
...
YOUNG MISS?! WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU!
SORRY. HOW'S TAKA?
CLICK
UH.
JUST WAIT HERE A MINUTE! I'LL CHECK ON MY BROTHER.

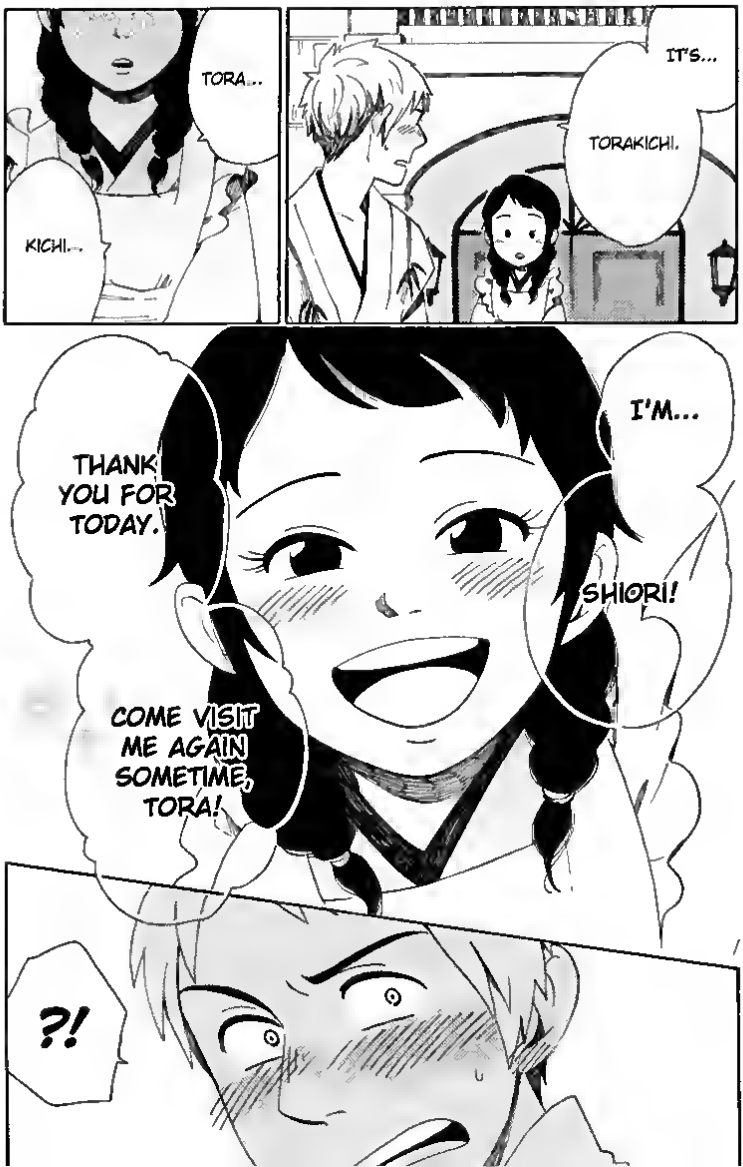
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR FACE.
SOMEONE LIKE YOU SHOULD BE USING THE SERVANT'S ENTRANCE, NOT THE FRONT DOOR.
ゴゴゴ
FLINCH
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
?!

SFX GLAAARE

I,
COME HERE!
I'M SORRY!
FLINCH
DADDY!
HIS FACE...
IS SCARY!
STEP
STEP
H—

I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR MY SON.
HUH?
YOU'RE A SHOP BOY FROM NANAKU-SAYA?!
!
EEEK!
HE'S FROM THE MEDICINE SHOP! HE BROUGHT ME HERE.
DADDY?!
!
SFX SCREAM
...
YES, SIR. HAVE A SAFE TRIP.
ANYWAY, I'M GOING BACK TO THE SHRINE LET TAKAHIKO AND YOUR MOTHER KNOW.
PLEASE MAKE YOUR-SELF AT HOME.
GLARE
YES!
FLINCH
HE'S IN FOREIGN TRADE.
YES
AH... YOUR FATHER IS A COMPANY'S VICE PRESI-DENT?
My grandfa-ther is the president.
?!
GRUNT.
HERE YOU ARE, VICE PRESIDENT.

WHY ARE YOU WALKING AROUND BY YOURSELF IF YOUR FAMILY'S SO IMPORTANT?!
IT'S BECAUSE MY BROTHER SAID HE WAS FEELING BAD WITHOUT HIS MEDICINE!
GRIN
HE HAD PLENTY LEFT.
BUT HE WAS JUST TEASING ME!
TEASING ...?
MY BROTHER IS ALWAYS PLAYING TRICKS ON ME.
Heh
HE GOT ME AGAIN.
SHE'S LAUGHING?
I REALLY AM SORRY FOR MAKING YOU ALL WORRY.
AH, UH...
IT'S NOTHING I'M GLAD HE'S OKAY.
SLIP
WELL, I'LL BE...
UM,
CAN I ASK YOU YOUR NAME?


TORA...
KICHI...
IT'S...
TORAKICHI.
I'M...
SHIORI!
THANK YOU FOR TODAY.
COME VISIT ME AGAIN SOMETIME, TORA!
?!

ぼー
...
CHIRP CHIRP
THE NEXT DAY
TORA?!
SHE CALLED ME TORA!
SFX STARE
YOU KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I CALLED FOR YOU?!
OW! THE HELL'RE YOU DOING, SHRIMP?!
THERE'S A JOB FOR YOU! THIRD BUILDING ON THE WESTERN ROAD!
HEY!
FLINCH
WHAM
WAVE
UM...
COULD HE BE...? I WONDER...
No, it's impossible
WHY DO THEY HAVE TO USE THAT USE-LESS IDIOT WHEN I'M WILLING?!
DAMNIT!
...
WAFT

I'M BACK.
SIGH...
YEEEES?
IS TORA HERE?
SHE CAME HERE EARLIER WITH SNACKS FOR YOU. ♥
WHAT?!
I KNEW IT! YOU'RE SO EASY TO READ.
WHAT?!
SHIORI, HUH?
?!
DID YOU REALLY CARRY HER ALL THE WAY TO HER HOUSE WHEN SHE HURT HER FOOT?
AND SHE'S CALLING YOU TORA NOW, TOO?
REALLY? REALLY? IT ALL SOUNDS...
Eeee! ♥

FISHILY LIKE LOVE TO ME.
BLUSH
WHISPER
YOU MEAN LIKE A CARP?
FISH?
[CARP] FISH
GOOD FOR GALL BLADDERS, EYES, AND THE LIKE.
CHOMP CHOMP
A LITTLE BRAT LIKE YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND! WHAT ARE YOU EATING, ANYWAY?!
HUH? IT'S ONE OF THE SNACKS THEY BROUGHT BY FOR US EARLIER.
DON'T EAT IT ALL BY YOURSELF! MOST OF IT SHOULD BE MINE ANYWAY, RIGHT?!
It's super tasty.
EVERYTHING THAT'S YOURS BELONGS TO ME!

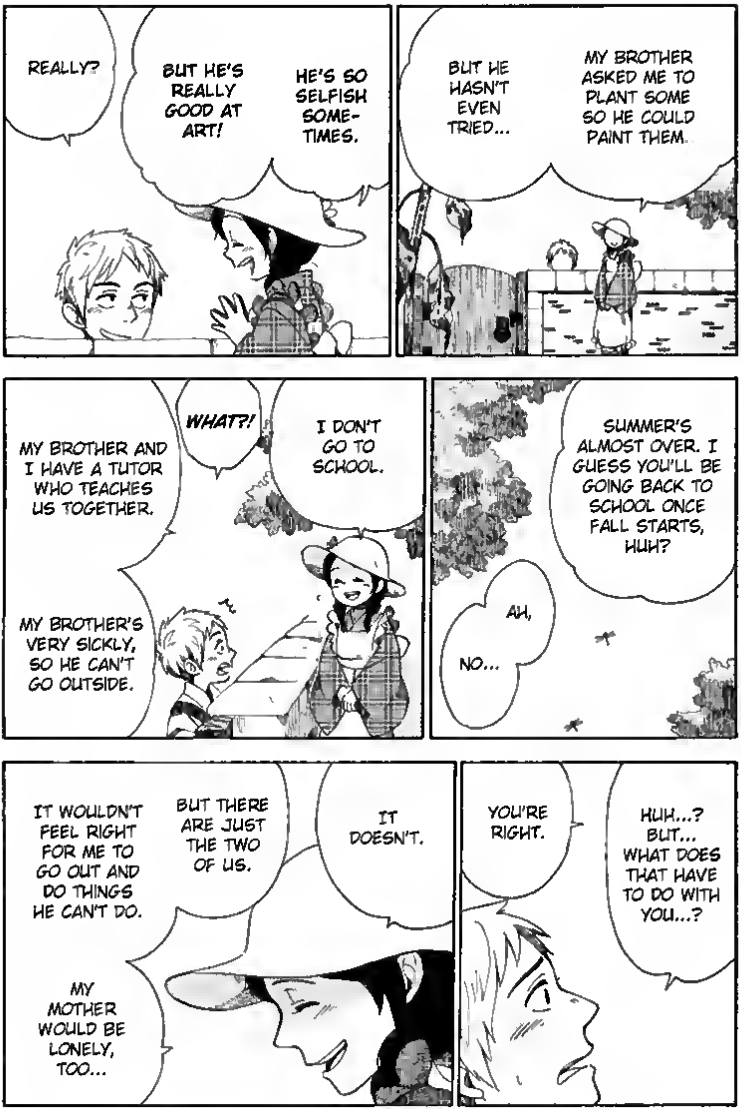
THE YAMATEN COMPANY ...
!
YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
THEY ACT AS MEDIATOR FOR SOME OF OUR MEDICINES THAT COME FROM ABROAD.
AND THEIR PRESIDENT WAS GOOD FRIENDS WITH THE FOUNDER OF OUR COMPANY, TOO. BUSINESS PARTNERS, ALMOST.
YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THEIR DAUGHTER, DON'T YOU?
WH,
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ARE YOU STUPID?!
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED?!
I'M JUST ABOUT TO GO ON A TRIP ANYWAY!
SHORT
SHORT
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR GIRLS!
AH, I'M SO BUSY!
THAT FAR GONE, HUH?
So cute.
?
IT'S NOT AS IF...

HELLO.
THEY'RE RIGHT ABOUT ANY OF THAT...
TORA!
YOU CAME BACK, HUH?!
AH, UM
I BROUGHT YOUR BROTHER HIS MEDICINE...
BOW
I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN.
GRIN
IT'S FINE. I'M HAPPY.
I'VE HAD A LOT OF DELIVERIES, SO...
I'M SORRY IF IT SEEMED LIKE I'D COME BY SOONER.

ARE...
ARE YOU GROWING SUNFLOWERS?
HUH?
OH. YEAH.
AH, CRUD. WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY NOW? UH...
Ah, a cicada.
FLICK
YOU'RE SO LOW-CLASS.
OH CRAAAAAAP, WHAT AM I SAYING?!
WOW.
DIAR-RHEA...?
UM. AH, RIGHT. YOU CAN MAKE A PRETTY GOOD MEDICINE FOR DIARRHEA WITH THE SEEDS FROM THOSE!
...

I WONDER WHAT MEDICINE WOULD BE GOOD FOR THAT?
AH, BUT I GET CONSTIPATED MORE OFTEN.
!
I GUESS THAT'S NORMAL FOR A MEDICINE SELLER.
YOU'RE SO KNOWL-EDGEABLE!
HA HA!
HA HA HA!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING SO...
AH! I'M SO SORRY.
HEH...

I'M OUT ON DELIVERIES!
屋仲々
FZZZ
FZZZ
BZZZZZ
BZZZ
FZZZ
BZZZZZ
AH, THE SUNFLOWERS ARE ALL DRIED UP NOW.
Ha ha ha!


REALLY?
BUT HE'S REALLY GOOD AT ART!
HE'S SO SELFISH SOME-TIMES.
BUT HE HASN'T EVEN TRIED...
MY BROTHER ASKED ME TO PLANT SOME SO HE COULD PAINT THEM.
WHAT?!
I DON'T GO TO SCHOOL.
MY BROTHER AND I HAVE A TUTOR WHO TEACHES US TOGETHER.
MY BROTHER'S VERY SICKLY, SO HE CAN'T GO OUTSIDE.
SUMMER'S ALMOST OVER. I GUESS YOU'LL BE GOING BACK TO SCHOOL ONCE FALL STARTS, HUH?
AH, NO...
IT WOULDN'T FEEL RIGHT FOR ME TO GO OUT AND DO THINGS HE CAN'T DO.
BUT THERE ARE JUST THE TWO OF US.
IT DOESN'T.
MY MOTHER WOULD BE LONELY, TOO...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
HUH...? BUT... WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH YOU...?

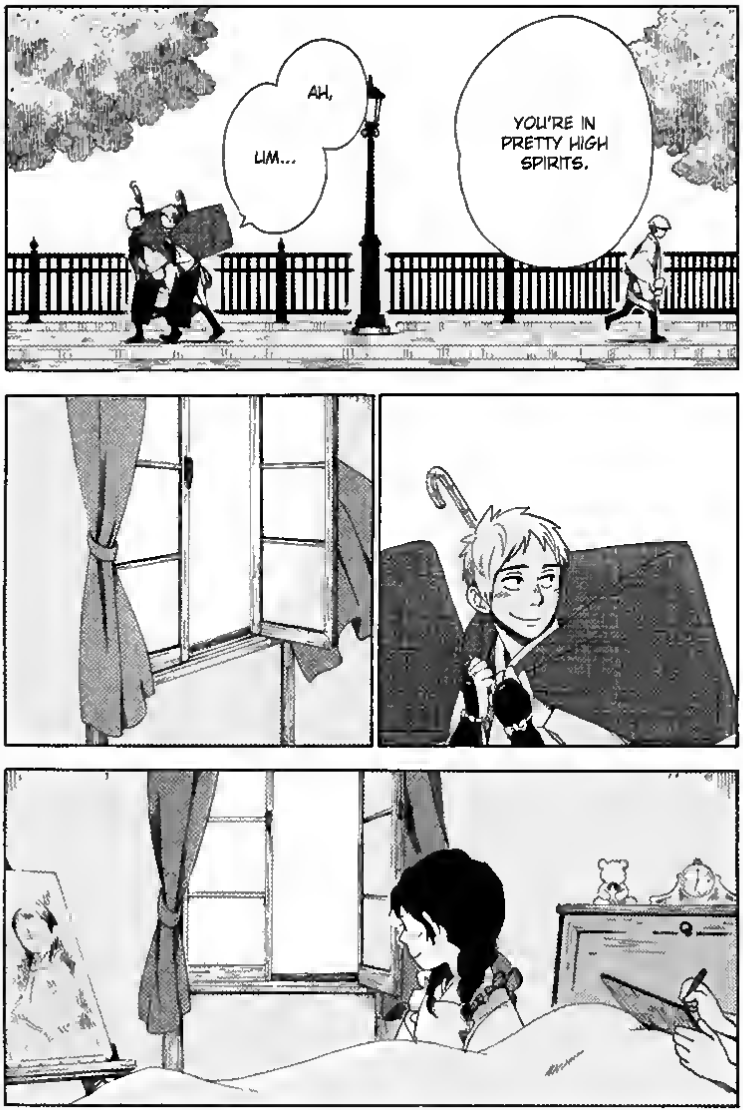
I'M REALLY GLAD YOU COME EVERY DAY,
TORA.
SO I DON'T GO OUTSIDE EITHER, UNLESS I'M RUNNING AN ERRAND FOR MY BROTHER.
WE TALK A LOT TOO, SINCE I DON'T REALLY HAVE OTHER FRIENDS.
SO...
THANK YOU.
THAT'S...
CLENCH
IF THAT'S HOW THINGS ARE,
I'D COME BY HERE EVERY DAY FROM HERE ON OUT, AS WELL...

UH...
I...
"ONCE YOU'RE ON THE ROAD, YOU WON'T BE COMING BACK FOR A WHILE."
"IF THERE'S SOME GIRL YOU LIKE, MAKE SURE YOU SQUARE THINGS AWAY WITH HER, GOT IT?"
BUT I...
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, I'LL BE SELLING MEDICINE ON THE ROAD.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME BACK UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR...
CLENCH
BUT,
UH...

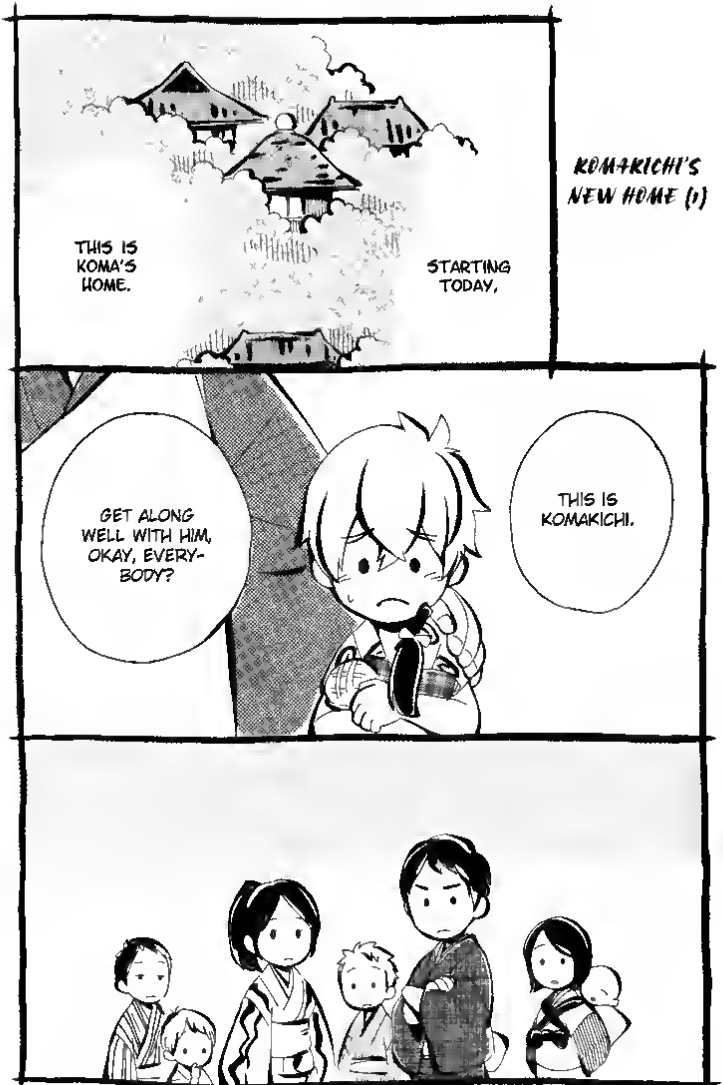
I'LL DEFI-NITELY COME BACK!
SO I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN AFTER THAT!
SO, UH...!

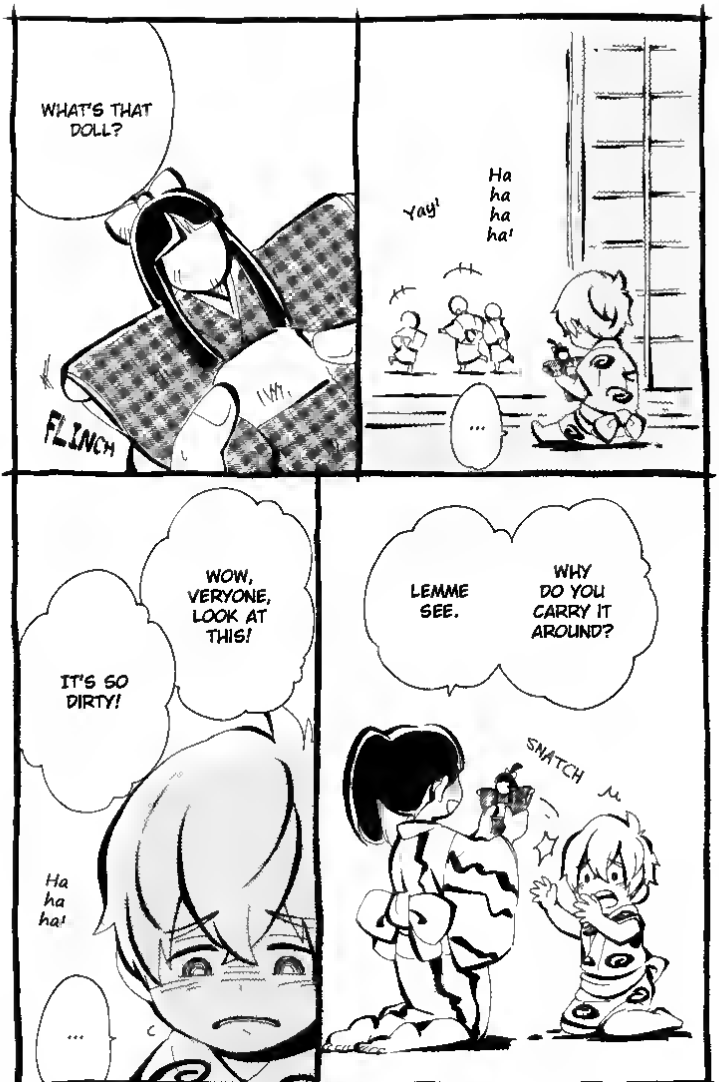
BRUSH
OKAY!
I'LL WAIT!
WHEN YOU GET BACK,
MAKE SURE YOU TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT...

THIS IS TORAKICHI! I'M LEAVING NOW!
DON'T SHOUT SO LOUD! IT'S EARLY.


AH,
LIM...
YOU'RE IN PRETTY HIGH SPIRITS.

KOMAKICHI'S NEW HOME (1)





EXTRA STORY 23- END

Chichikogusa

Chapter 28

BY TAGAWA MI

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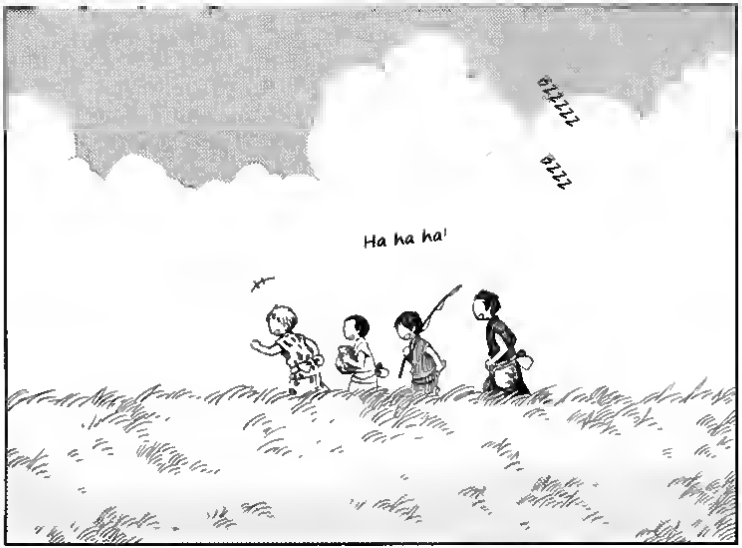
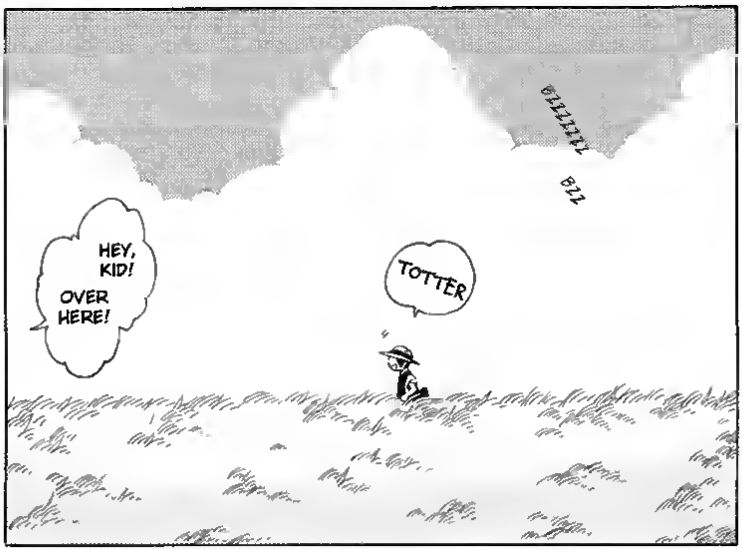
CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

SORRY THE TITLE IN THE CONTENTS PAGE IS WRONG AND IS SUPPOSED TO BE CHANGE NOT LOVE.

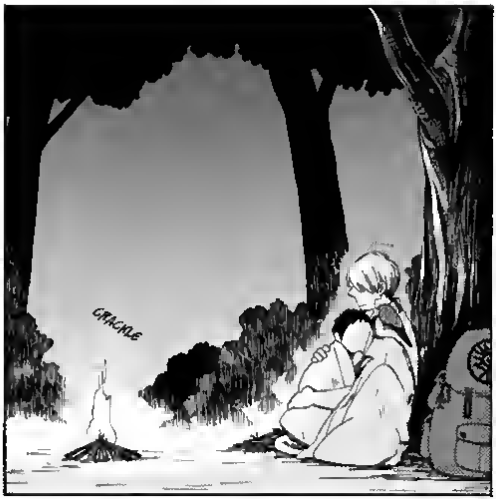

ZZZZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZ
Ha ha ha!

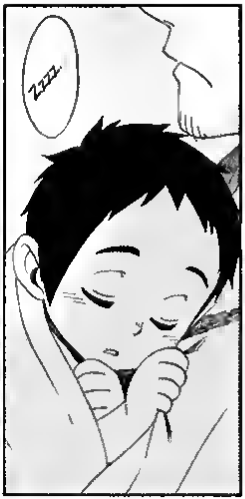

ZZZZZZZZ
ZZZ
HEY, KID! OVER HERE!
TOTTER

FLAP
WELCOME BACK, IEJI.
CAW
HOW'S SHIROU?
CAW
OF COURSE. TAKE CARE ON THE ROAD.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERY-THING. I'LL CALL ON YOU AGAIN.
AH,
IT'S THE MEDICINE-SELLER!
Ha ha ha!
THERE THEY WENT!
HEY, KID,
YOUR DAD'S HERE!

...
YEAH...
SHIROU...
YEAH. THANKS FOR PLAYING WITH SHIROU.
WE'RE CATCHING LOACHES. ARE YOU LEAVING ALREADY?
BYEEE!
BYE!
TAKE CARE!
COME AGAIN NEXT YEAR!
LATER, KID!

IS THAT SO? DID YOU KEEP HOLD OF THEM PROPERLY?
YEAH.
UM, SHIROU CAUGHT SOME LOACHES TOO!
YEAH. THEY WERE SO SLIPPERY!
IT WAS ONLY THREE DAYS, BUT I'M GLAD YOU GOT ON WELL WITH EVERYONE.
BZZZZ
BZZZZZZ
BZZ
BZZZZ
...
GLANCE
CRACKLE
...


CRACKLE


ZZZZ

LAST YEAR THIS TIME I WASN'T ABLE TO SEPARATE MYSELF FROM HIM AT ALL.
CRACKLE

I'M A LITTLE DOWN AGAIN.
SIGH

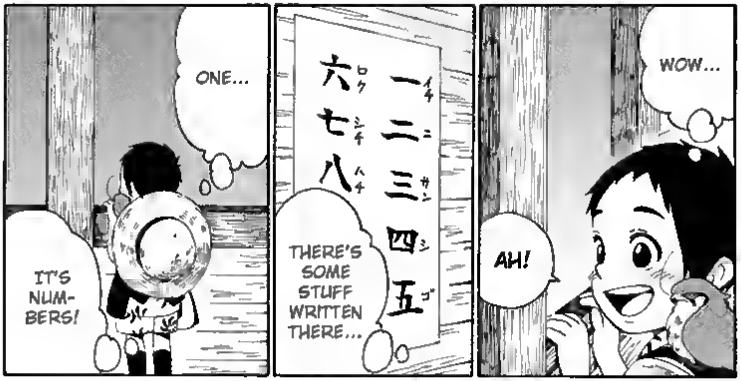
BUT,
LATELY, I GUESS THAT'S CHANGED A BIT.
I THOUGHT FOR SURE THAT BEING PROTECTED BY HIS FATHER WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR HIM.
CHIRP
I...
GUESS THIS REALLY CAN'T LAST FOREVER.

SORRY I'M A BIT LATE. I'M CAUSING YOU TROUBLE AGAIN THIS YEAR.
OH, NANAKU-SAYA! WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
NOT AT ALL! MAKE YOUR-SELF AT HOME.
HELLO AGAIN!
HAVE YOU EATEN?
HOW WONDER-FUL!
YES, WE JUST DID.
GLANCE
HELLO.
AND OH! YOU'VE GOTTEN QUITE BIG.
BOW
YEAH!
DON'T GO TOO FAR!
HUH? SURE, BUT...
PAPA, CAN I GO OVER THERE FOR A BIT?

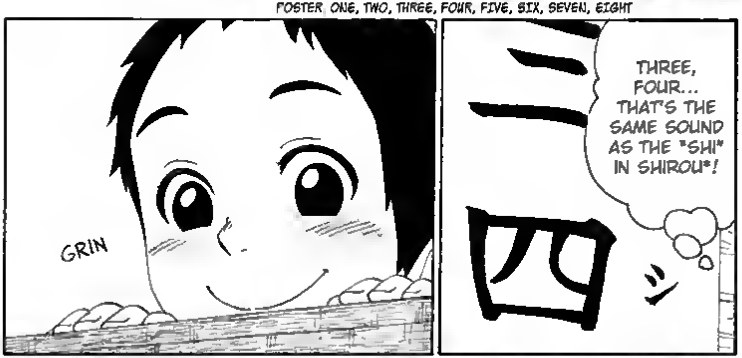
I READ IT!
SA...
FLO...
WER.
Safflower
Carthamus Tinctorius
Used for menstruation and other female health issues.
Ha ha ha!
Yay!
I WONDER WHAT ALL THIS OTHER STUFF IS.
I'LL HAVE TO TELL PAPA TO TEACH ME LATER.
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
?

TAP TAP
HURRY, HURRY, THE TEACHER'S HERE!
Yay!
CLANG CLANG
CLANG
AFTER-NOON BREAK IS OVER!
WAIT!
...

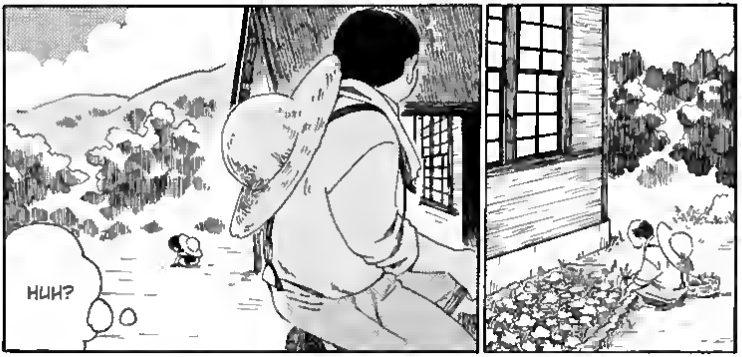
FOSTER ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT



FOSTER ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT



* FOUR - PRONOUNCED "SHI" IN JAPANESE.



THIS IS SI...X.
SCRATCH SCRATCH
Oh!
YOU'RE VERY GOOD AT THAT FOR SOMEONE SO YOUNG.
FLINCH
?!
OH?
GASP
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE
...

I'M SORRY!
SHI...
SHIROU.
I'M FOUR.
OH?
FOUR, ARE YOU?
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M THIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S* HEAD TEACHER.
PARDON ME,
WELL, WELL. IN ALL MY YEARS OF WORKING AT THIS SCHOOL I'VE RARELY MET A CHILD SO YOUNG WHO ANSWERS SO POLITELY.
SHAKE

* DURING THE MEIJI ERA, CHILDREN STARTED SCHOOL AT 6 (7 BY THE TRADITIONAL BUDDHIST WAY OF COUNTING)

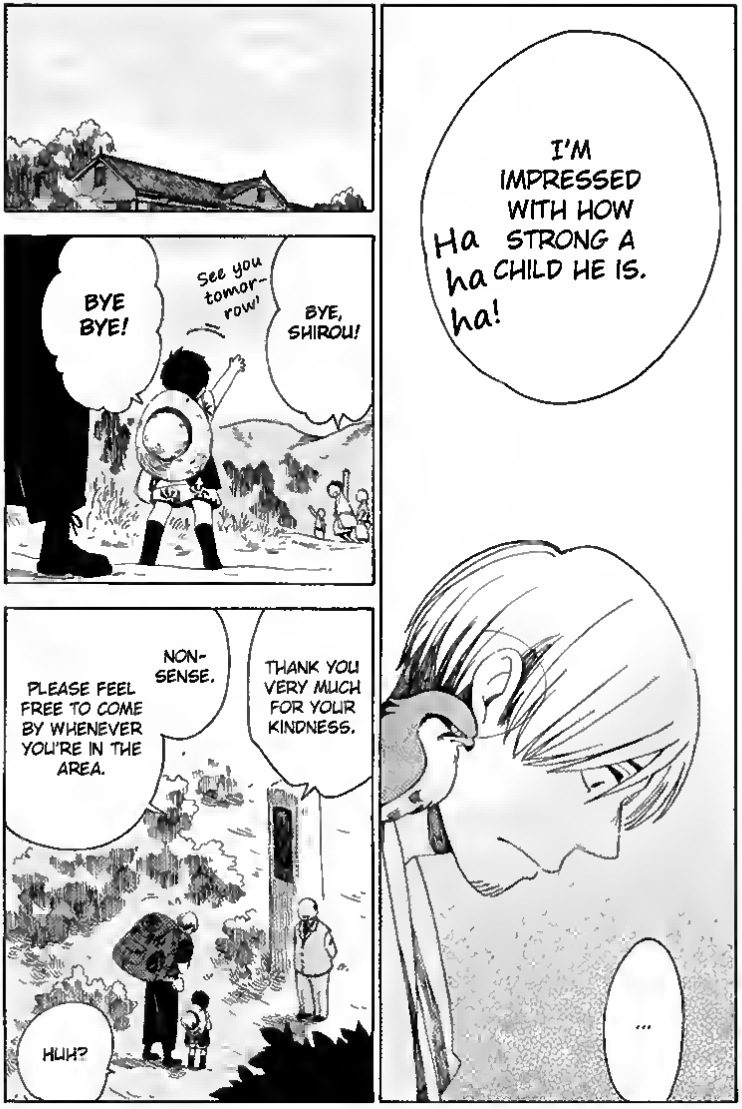
SCUFF
I'LL BE AROUND FOR THREE OR FOUR MORE DAYS, SO FIND ME IF SOMETHING COMES UP.
SEE YOU AGAIN.
SO HE REALLY IS HERE.
OH, IT'S THE MEDICINE SELLER!
AH!
HELLO THERE.
Ha ha ha!
WHERE DID THAT SHIROU GO OFF TO?
SHIROU DID WHAT?
WE THOUGHT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT...
ARE YOU COMING BACK FROM SCHOOL? I WAS JUST AT YOUR HOUSE.

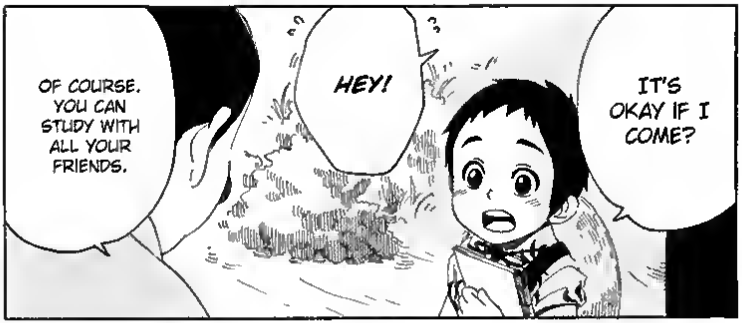
HE'S PROBABLY PLAYING WITH THE OTHER KIDS IN THE YARD RIGHT NOW!
...
THE HEAD TEACHER BROUGHT HIM IN AND SAID HIS FATHER WAS A MEDICINE SELLER.
I KNEW IT! I THOUGHT I'D SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
BUT DOES THIS MEAN HE ACTUALLY WANTS TO SOCIALIZE?
AND ALONE? THAT'S A LONG WAY!
HEY HEY HEY, WHY IN THE HECK DID HE GO TO THE SCHOOL?!
?
I THOUGHT HE'D GOTTEN A LITTLE USED TO BEIGN WITH OTHER KIDS LATELY,
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED!
Yay!

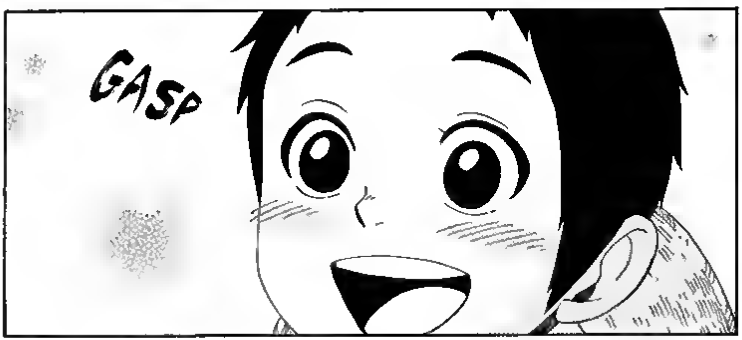
PAPA!
AH,
YOU REALLY ARE HERE WHAT WERE YOU THINK-ING?
HEY, SHIROU!
Ha ha ha ha!
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
SHIROU'S STILL PLAYING!
EEEK! RUN AWAY!
WHA—
AH, HEY!
WOOF

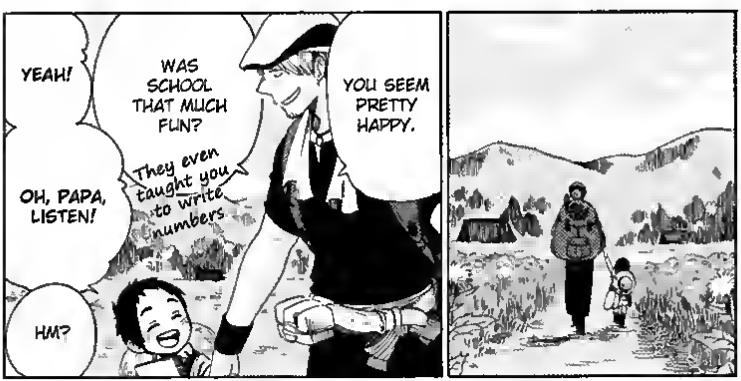
FLAP
GAAAH!
DON'T COME...
NEAR...?
Yay!
HELLO THERE.
YOU MUST BE YOUNG SHIROU'S FATHER.
HUH? OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
I'VE RECENTLY COME HERE AND TAKEN ON THE ROLE OF THIS SCHOOL'S HEAD TEACHER.
HEAD TEACHER?!
AH, I'M SHIROU'S FATHER. MY NAME IS TORA-KICHI! I'M SO TERRIBLY SORRY THAT MY SON CAME AND BOTH-ERED YOU EVEN THOUGH HE ISN'T A STUDENT HERE.
BOW
BOW

NO,
I HAVEN'T REALLY TAUGHT HIM MUCH...
HE'S ALREADY READING AND WRITING.
HAVE YOU SPENT A LOT OF TIME TEACHING HIM?
I WAS SURPRISED AT HOW MATURE HE IS FOR SUCH A SMALL CHILD.
NOT AT ALL, NOT AT ALL.
HUH?
HE TOLD ME ALL SORTS OF THINGS.
LIKE HOW YOU'RE TRAVELING AROUND TOGETHER FOR WORK.
USUALLY, HOW MUCH A CHILD LEARNS DEPENDS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY'RE RAISED.
SHIROU MUST BE WATCHING YOU CLOSELY AS YOU TRAVEL.
I'M SURE HE'S SEEN ALL SORTS OF THINGS AND MET ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. IT'S MADE HIM QUITE INDEPENDENT.


I'M IMPRESSED WITH HOW STRONG A CHILD HE IS.
Ha ha ha!
...
BYE, SHIROU!
See you tomorrow!
BYE BYE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR KINDNESS.
NONSENSE.
PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME BY WHENEVER YOU'RE IN THE AREA.
HUH?


IT'S OKAY IF I COME?
HEY!
OF COURSE. YOU CAN STUDY WITH ALL YOUR FRIENDS.


GASP


YEAH!
WAS SCHOOL THAT MUCH FUN?
YOU SEEM PRETTY HAPPY.
They even taught you to write numbers
OH, PAPA, LISTEN!
HM?

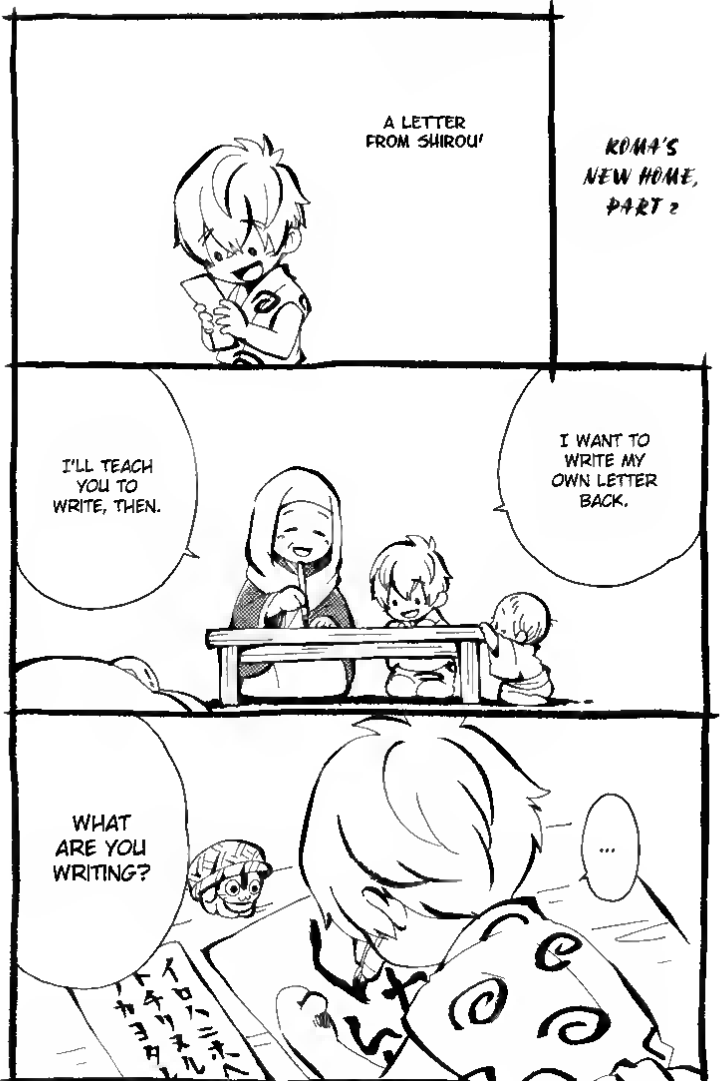
UM.
WHEN I TURN SIX, I WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL!
WHAT?
HE'LL START SCHOOL WHEN HE'S SIX! I'D TOTALLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT!
I WISH I COULD GO SOONER.
OH?
THE HEAD TEACHER SAID SO!
EVERYBODY STARTS SCHOOL WHEN THEY TURN SIX.
AH, I... I GUESS SO.

I WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL AND LEARN A LOT.
DO YOU THINK I'LL HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS?
IT'S SO FUN!
YAY!
DASH
SCHOOL...
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT.

I NEED
TO START
THINKING
SERIOUSLY...

ABOUT THE
TIME WHEN
YOU'LL LEAVE
MY SIDE.

KOMA'S NEW HOME, PART 2



* THE PAPER TO KOMA'S LEFT IS AN OLD-FASHIONED "I RO HA" SYLLABARY

EXTRA STORY 24- END

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Chichikogusa

Chapter 29

BY TAGAWA MI

Antisense Scanslations

Translations - Ferdverel

Cleaning/Lettering - Arleea

QCing - Thestripedone

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CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

CHAPTER 29 – UNSTOPPABLE LOVE AND A BREAK

竹の葉
SIGH NANAKUSAYA
I JUST GOT BACK.
MUCH APPRECIATED. I WAS GETTING NERVOUS WONDERING IF YOU WERE PLANNING TO TAKE THE SUMMER OFF THIS YEAR TOO.
GOING BACK HOME FOR OBON AND THE HOLIDAYS WAS TOO SCA...
I MEAN, THERE WERE A LOT OF TROUBLE INVOLVED
OH, YOU'RE BACK.
Ha ha
I SEE.

HEY THERE, KID.
YOU SEEM WELL. DID YOU HAVE FUN ON YOUR JOURNEY?
YES!
SMILE
YOU CAN HEAD INSIDE AND TAKE A LOOK AT WHERE THE MEDICINE GETS PREPARED IF YOU WANT.
YAY!
AH, HEY!
DASH
TORAKICHI, YOU HEAD UPSTAIRS.
HUH?
THE MASTER'S WAITING.

CLICK
I'VE JUST RETURNED FROM MY ROUTE.
UM...
KNOCK KNOCK
IT'S TORA-KICHI
COME IN
EVERY TIME YOU FALL BEHIND IN YOUR WORK,
THE TRUST THAT ALL YOUR PREDECES-SORS HAVE ESTABLISHED FOR THIS SHOP GETS LOST BIT BY BIT!
TAP
SHOCK
WHAT DAY IN AUGUST DO YOU THINK IT IS RIGHT NOW?
BANG

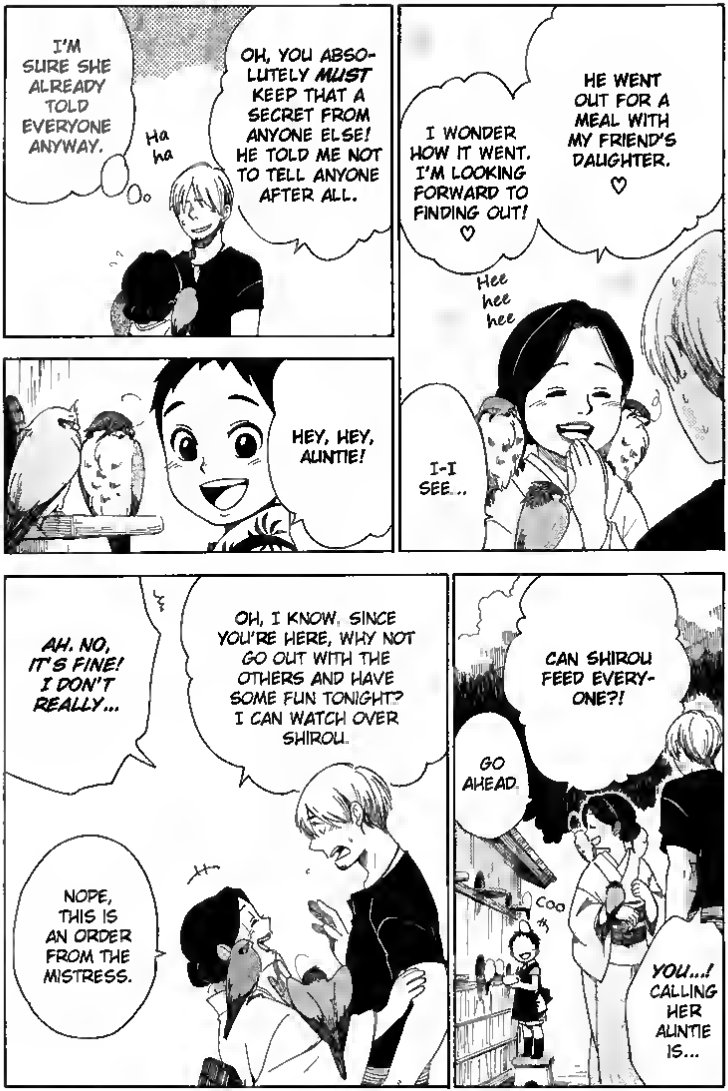
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
I-I'M VERY SOR..
YOU DON'T SEEM VERY SINCERE.
YES! I DEEPLY APOLO-GIZE!
SFX THRUST
SOME-THING...?
GRIMACE
IT'S ABOUT YOUR WORK FROM NOW ON.
I WAS INFORMED THAT AN EXTREMELY POPULAR AND DEEPLY EXPERIENCED MEDI-CINE SELLER PLANS TO RETIRE COM-PLETELY NEXT YEAR.
THE VALUABLE RECORDS CONTAIN-ING THE CULMINATION OF THAT PERSON'S MANY YEARS OF EX-PERIENCE AS A MER-CHANT WAS HANDED OVER TO OUR SHOP, NANAKUSAYA.
!
ADDITIONALLY...

I WAS THINKING OF ENTRUSTING THOSE RECORDS TO YOU.
HUH?!
AMONG THE TRAVELING MERCHANTS, EXCLUDING THE VETERENS WHO OVERSEE THE TRAINING OF THE NOVICES, I PLANNED TO PREPARE SOMEONE WHO HAD ACCUMULATED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCE FOR THIS.
I WANT *YOU* TO BE THE KEY FIGURE IN THAT.
FIRSTLY, I...
NO, I MEAN, THIS IS SO SUDDEN.
I ALSO HAVE TO MAKE THE RIGHT DECISION IN CHOOSING THE MOST CAPABLE PERSON TO INTRODUCE AS THE SUCCESSOR OF THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR AMASSING SUCH POPULARITY AND TRUST.

ADDITIONALLY, YOU ARE THAT VETEREN MEDICINE SELLER'S NOMINATION.
!
THAT MEDICINE SELLER...
IT'S SOMEONE YOU KNOW WELL.
STARTING NEXT YEAR, YOU WILL START PREPERATIONS TO SLOWLY TAKE OVER.
THAT'S WHY,
BEFORE THEN, YOU NEED TO RESOLVE THIS *BABYSITTING* ISSUE OF YOURS.

YOU ARE A VERY VALUABLE ASSET TO BOTH OUR SHOP AND CUSTOMERS.
I DON'T WANT THAT REPUTATION TO FALL.
HOWEVER,
UNTIL LAST YEAR...
I WAS TOLD THE TRAVELING MERCHANTS' MANAGER AKIMICHI WANTED TO OVERLOOK IT, SO I ALSO SIMPLY WATCHED AND WAITED.
I WANT YOU TO RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO QUICKLY.
ARE YOU ALREADY DONE TALKING WITH MY HUSBAND?
OH my
PAPA!
DASH
CAW
COO
COO

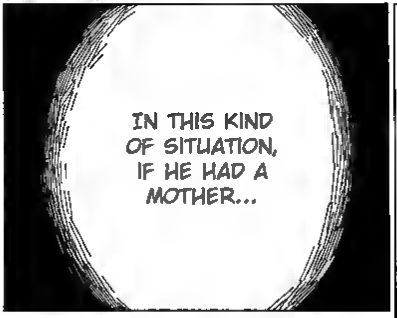
IT'S NOT GOOD IF YOU DON'T TAKE A BREATHER ONCE IN A WHILE.
HAVE YOU BEEN RESTING PROPERLY?
YOU STILL HAVEN'T SEPARATED, HUH, TORA?
MA'AM, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
GEH!
CHI
YUJI
THAT'S RIGHT, CHI AND YUJI BOTH RETURNED AS WELL.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT? YUJI...
CAW
IRYO AND INARI ARE HERE!
FLAP
CAW
Ha ha
SORT OF...
HEY, HEY, PAPA, LOOK!

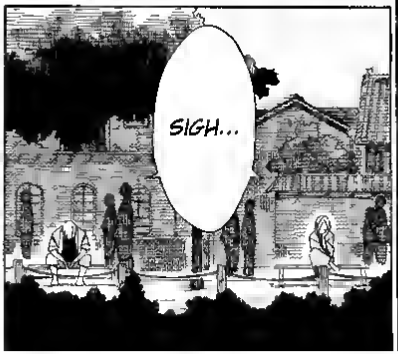

I'M SURE SHE ALREADY TOLD EVERYONE ANYWAY.
Ha ha
OH, YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST KEEP THAT A SECRET FROM ANYONE ELSE! HE TOLD ME NOT TO TELL ANYONE AFTER ALL.
I WONDER HOW IT WENT. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO FINDING OUT! ♡
HE WENT OUT FOR A MEAL WITH MY FRIEND'S DAUGHTER. ♡
Hee hee hee
I-I SEE...
HEY, HEY, AUNTIE!
AH, NO, IT'S FINE! I DON'T REALLY...
OH, I KNOW. SINCE YOU'RE HERE, WHY NOT GO OUT WITH THE OTHERS AND HAVE SOME FUN TONIGHT? I CAN WATCH OVER SHIROU.
NOPE, THIS IS AN ORDER FROM THE MISTRESS.
CAN SHIROU FEED EVERYONE?!
GO AHEAD.
Coo
YOU...! CALLING HER AUNTIE IS...

...
IN THOSE KINDS OF TIMES, IT'S NECESSARY TO SPEND TIME TO CUT LOOSE AND REST, WHETHER IT BE FROM WORK OR BEING A FATHER
YOU TALKED ABOUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS WITH MY HUSBAND, HAVEN'T YOU?
HE'S CHANGED A LOT SINCE BACK THEN,
BUT HE ALWAYS THINKS OF THE SHOP AND ALL OF YOU FIRST.
DON'T THINK TOO BADLY OF HIM.
~
~
WELL, OKAY THEN.

BZZZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
WELL...
THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
BZZZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUT WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
SIGH...
I UNDERSTAND IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY. BUT...
PONDER
AND SHIROU WILL BE GOING INTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THE YEAR AFTER THAT...
PONDER
SO NEXT YEAR I HAVE TO START GETTING READY FOR A NEW JOB,
TRUTHFULLY SPEAKING, THE TIME WE CAN SPEND BEING TOGETHER WILL BE REALLY LIMITED.

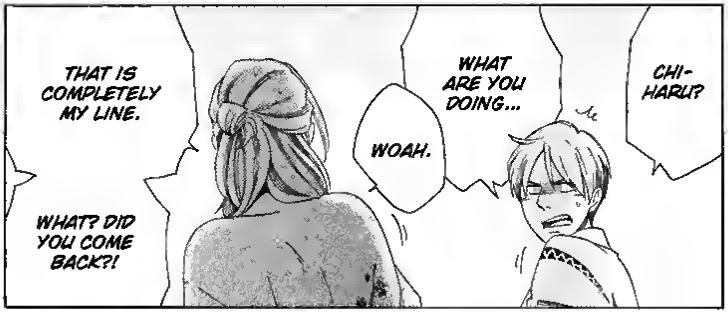
SFX RUMBLE X5

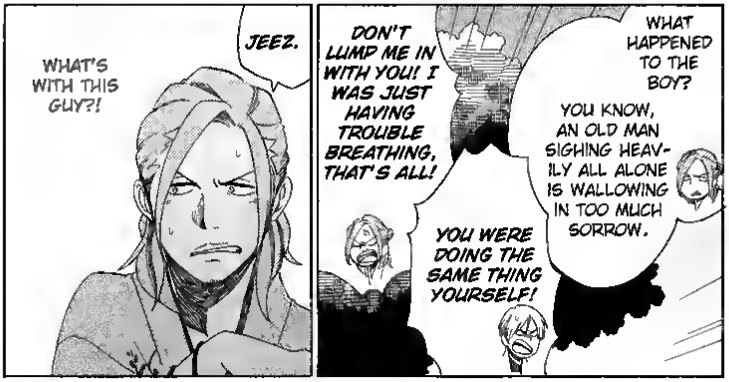




NO, SISTER IS NO GOOD. IF I ASK FOR SUCH A GRANDSTANDING THING AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR, I'LL BE IN HER DEBT AGAIN OR SOME SUCH...
BESIDES, EVEN THOUGH SHE'S MY ACTUAL SISTER, IT'S STILL ANOTHER FAMILY, SO LEAVING THERE TO GO TO SCHOOL THE WHOLE TIME IS A BIT...UGH.
WHAT DID MY BROTHER SAY ABOUT IT...?

HUH?


THAT IS COMPLETELY MY LINE.
WHAT? DID YOU COME BACK?!
WOAH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...
CHI-HARU?

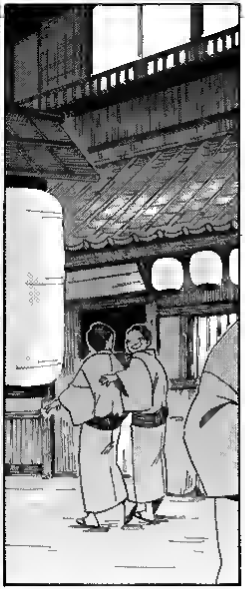

JEEZ.
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?!
DON'T LUMP ME IN WITH YOU! I WAS JUST HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING, THAT'S ALL!
YOU WERE DOING THE SAME THING YOURSELF!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOY?
YOU KNOW, AN OLD MAN SIGHING HEAV-ILY ALL ALONE IS WALLOWING IN TOO MUCH SORROW.

SO YOU'RE HAVING WORRIES TOO.
SIGH
!
THERE SURE IS A LOT HAPPENING THIS YEAR.
RIGHT NOW, MY AWKWARD HEART BREAKER OF A SECOND COUSIN CAME OVER TO MY FAMILY HOME, AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT I GOT SCOLDED BY MY AUNT IN FRONT OF THAT GUY, HER SAYING "HURRY UP AND SHOW YOUR PARENTS THEIR GRANDCHILD ALREADY!". SO I FLEW OUT OF THE HOUSE WHILE CRYING, THINKING "I'LL GO FIND A SUITABLE MAN TO COMFORT ME." AND JUST WHEN I THOUGHT THAT...!
Chi-haru...
Yo!
WHY DID I HAVE TO RUN INTO THIS GUY!?
HUH.
HA...
RUSTLE
THAT'S A JOKE, RIGHT?
WANNA GO GET A DRINK WITH ME?
I JUST SO HAPPEN TO BE FREE AND ALONE ANYWAY.
...

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY RIGHT NOW... SURE, I WANTED SOMEONE TO COMFORT ME, BUT...
NOT YOU.
I SEE.
WHY IN THE WORLD SHOULD I HAVE TO TAG ALONG AND GO DRINK WITH A GUY LIKE YOU!?
WHY NOT GO FIND SOME SHOP WITH CUTE GIRLS WHO CAN POUR YOU YOUR ALCOHOL FOR YOU SOMEWHERE?
WELL? HUNCHING YOUR BACK AND DRINKING ALL BY YOURSELF SUITS YOU BETTER ANYWAY!
THAT'S A SHAME. YOU'RE ALWAYS HELPING ME OUT, SO I WAS THINKING OF TREATING YOU, TOO.
RUSTLE
?!
?!
ピッ
WELL, SEE YA.
I'VE KNOWN YOU FOR A LONG TIME BUT WE HAVEN'T ONCE GONE OUT FOR A DRINK TOGETHER.
I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD TRY IT OUT.
SFX: SHOCK

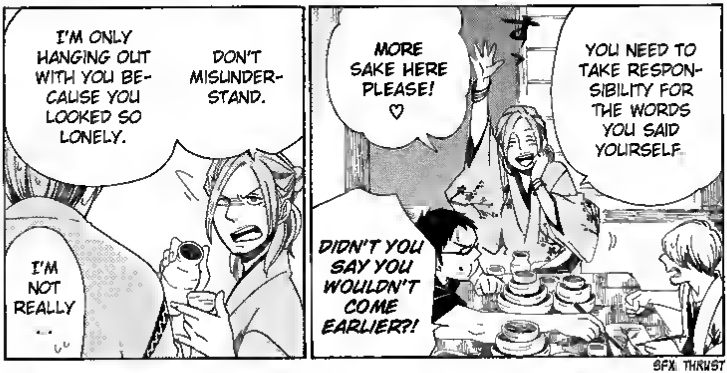
GAH!
SHOCK
HEY, DON'T TRICK ME!
GRAB
WHAT'S WITH THAT LONELY PROFILE JUST NOW!? AND WHY IS HE WALKING SO HUNCHED OVER LIKE THAT?! I'M THE ONE WALLOWING IN SORROW HERE! AN INVITATION? IS THIS AN INVITATION? HUH? CAN THIS BE?
SFX: SHOVE
WAS...
WAS WHAT?
WAS WHAT YOU SAID JUST NOW TRUE?
RUNER
YOU BAS-TARD...
WHA...
YUJIRU!?

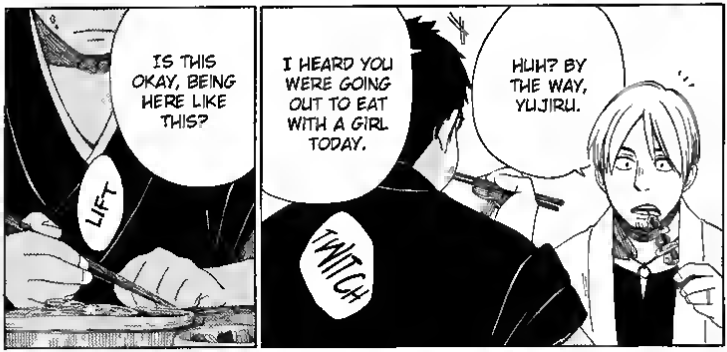
SFX CRUNCH X3



SFX CRUNCH X2

I'M NOT MADE OF MONEY HERE!
LIMIT YOURSELF!
ONE MORE YAKITORI BOWL!
SFX: THRUST

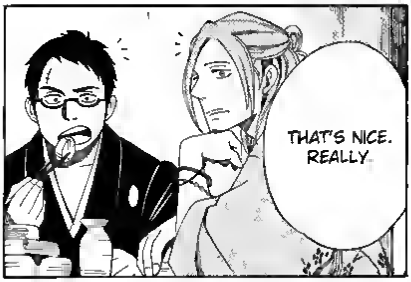

I'M ONLY HANGING OUT WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU LOOKED SO LONELY.
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND.
I'M NOT REALLY...
MORE SAKE HERE PLEASE! ♡
YOU NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WORDS YOU SAID YOURSELF.
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WOULDN'T COME EARLIER?!
SFX: THRUST


IS THIS OKAY, BEING HERE LIKE THIS?
LIFT
I HEARD YOU WERE GOING OUT TO EAT WITH A GIRL TODAY.
TWITCH
HUH? BY THE WAY, YUJIRU.

IDIOT. YOU DIDN'T NEED TO ASK. BEING HERE AT THIS TIME MEANS HE GOT DUMPED, OBVIOUSLY.
HUH!?
WOBBLE
?!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT THAT INTERESTED!
Quit it
SOB
What happened?
IT'S OK. WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO CHIHARU? ♡
GRIN
GRIN
SO SHE REALLY DID TELL EVERYONE.
Hee hee!
MISTRESS!
...
EVERYONE KNOWS, OBVIOUSLY.
HEY, WAIT. WHY DO YOU GUYS KNOW THAT I WENT OUT WITH A GIRL!?

SOB
I'M SO SORRY, MISTRESS... EVEN THOUGH YOU WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF INTRODUCING THAT GIRL TO ME,
SHE WAS COMPLETELY, ABSOLUTELY NOT MY TYPE AT ALL.
BUT WORST OF ALL HER HANDMADE BENTO TASTED TOTALLY DISGUSTING.
AH, BUT THE ONE GOOD THING WAS THAT HER BREASTS WERE BIG.
SHE WAS WAY TOO TALL, AND TALKED TOO MUCH,
...
BUT MISTRESS, I DID MY BEST BECAUSE YOU CHOSE HER FOR MY SAKE!
I STILL WOULD MARRY THAT GIRL!
FOR INSTANCE, EVEN WITH HORRIBLE FOOD,
WHAT THE HECK IS HE TALKING ABOUT!?
CALM DOWN A LITTLE. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU. BUT FIRST OF ALL, PUT ASIDE THE MISTRESS FOR A SECOND.
HOW CAN I?!
BAM
SPIT
THE MISTRESS IS THE BODHISATTVA OF MY HEART!

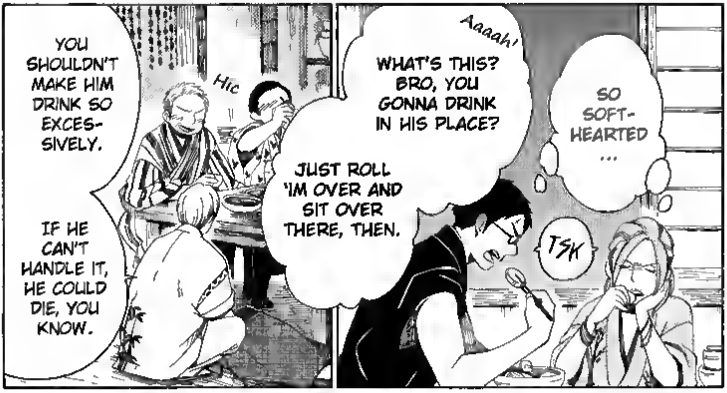
EVER SINCE I TOOK UP APPRENTICESHIP AFTER LEAVING HOME, SHE ALWAYS COOKED DELICIOUS FOOD FOR ME!
AND SHE WAS THE ONE WHO NAMED MY BIRD INARI BECAUSE I ALWAYS ATE SO MUCH INARI!
THAT'S WHY I WOULD DO WHATEVER THE MISTRESS SAYS!
WHENEVER I WAS LONELY OR HAVING A HARD TIME, SHE ALWAYS MADE WARM MEALS TO CHEER ME UP!
...
SO HE'S BEEN TRAINED LIKE AN ANIMAL, HUH?


THAT'S NICE. REALLY.

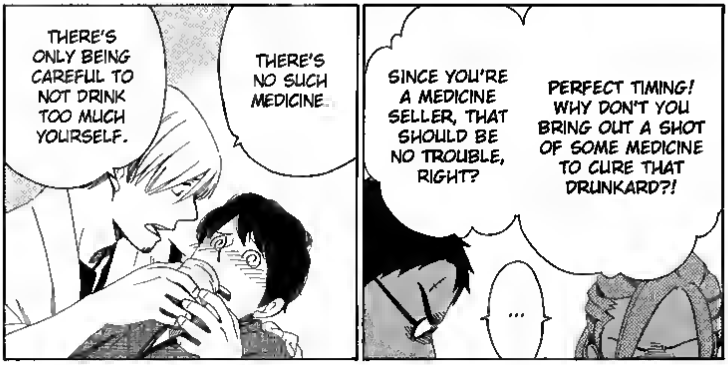
UM, YUJIRU... SORRY TO INTERRUPT WHILE YOU'RE GETTING ALL RILED UP, BUT...
WHAT DOES THAT GIRL THINK ABOUT YOU? DID SHE SAY THAT YOU WOULD MEET UP AGAIN?
HUH!? OF COURSE!
SHE SAID SHE'D BRING ANOTHER HANDMADE BENTO FOR ME, SO I'M GONNA BRING DIGESTIVE MEDICINE TO DEAL WITH THAT! I DEFINITELY WON'T DISAPPOINT THE MISTRESS!

YOU'RE AT A GOOD AGE FOR IT.
IT'S BETTER TO START EARLY IF YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A HOUSEHOLD.

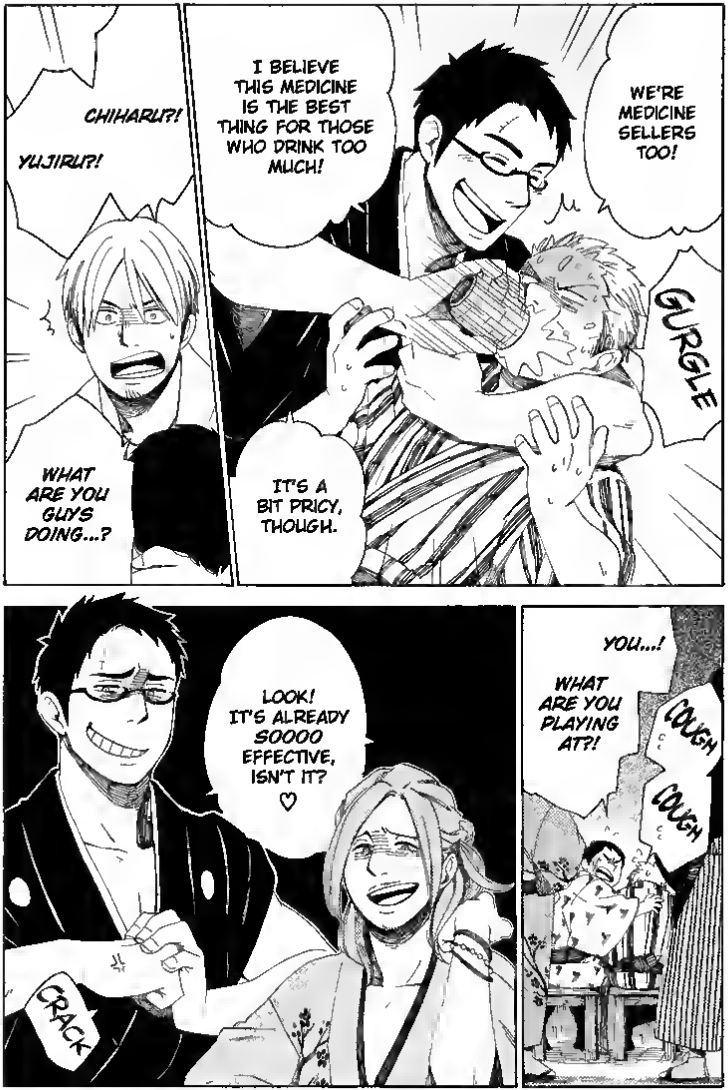
CLATTER
SHOCK
EEK!
IF THERE'S TWO OF YOU, YOU CAN HELP EACH OTHER OUT A LOT.
...
AH, CAN YOU BRING A CUP OF WATER?
WE'D BETTER NOT MOVE HIM
AH, YES.
...
WAKE UP AND DRINK MORE OF MY SAKE!
CLATTER
!
HEY.
HEY, THAT WAS CARELESS!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, CUS-TOMER?!
Gyahahaha!
WHAT, IT'S JUST SOME DRUNK-ARD...?
GOOD GRIEF.


YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE HIM DRINK SO EXCESSIVELY.
Hic
IF HE CAN'T HANDLE IT, HE COULD DIE, YOU KNOW.
Aaaah!
WHAT'S THIS? BRO, YOU GONNA DRINK IN HIS PLACE?
JUST ROLL 'IM OVER AND SIT OVER THERE, THEN.
SO SOFT-HEARTED ...
TSK

OH, A GREAT MEDICINE SELLER, HUH!
NO, I'M A MEDICINE SELLER.
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING! ARE YOU SOME KINDA DOCTOR, BRO?


THERE'S ONLY BEING CAREFUL TO NOT DRINK TOO MUCH YOURSELF.
THERE'S NO SUCH MEDICINE.
SINCE YOU'RE A MEDICINE SELLER, THAT SHOULD BE NO TROUBLE, RIGHT?
PERFECT TIMING! WHY DON'T YOU BRING OUT A SHOT OF SOME MEDICINE TO CURE THAT DRUNKARD?!
...

OH MY. ♡
WHAT A USELESS MEDICINE SELLER.
EVEN THOUGH HE COMES BUTTING IN BEING ALL SELF-IMPORTANT, RIGHT?! IF WE COULD TRY NOT TO DRINK TOO MUCH, THEN THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEMS!
HAH, DID YA HEAR THAT?! NO SUCH THING, HE SAYS!
Bwa ha ha!
WAS THERE A CUSTOMER OVER HERE THAT WANTED SOME MEDICINE?
THANKS FOR YOUR FREQUENT BUSINESS!
GRAB
SPLASH
HUH?


CHIHARU?!
YUJIRU?!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING...?
I BELIEVE THIS MEDICINE IS THE BEST THING FOR THOSE WHO DRINK TOO MUCH!
IT'S A BIT PRICY, THOUGH.
WE'RE MEDICINE SELLERS TOO!
GURGLE
LOOK! IT'S ALREADY SOOOO EFFECTIVE, ISN'T IT? ♡
CRACK
YOU...!
WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT?!
COUGH
COUGH

WHAT THE HECK WERE YOU DOING, YOU TWO IDIOTS?!
Thank you very much!
Eek!
WE CAN ALSO PREPARE SOME OTHER MEDICINE FOR ANYONE WHO'S STILL DRUNK, YOU KNOW?
YOU...
YEAH, YEAH, WE'RE SO SORRY.
Tsk!
EVEN IF YOU'RE PRETENDING TO BE KICKED OUT OF THE STORE, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF SOMEONE FOUND OUT WE WERE EMPLOYEES OF NANAKUSAYA? IT WOULD COMPLETELY RUIN THE TRUST IN OUR SHOP! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!
...
IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE WRONG! THAT'S NORMALLY THE BEST MEDICINE TO WAKE UP DRUNKARDS!
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING! NO NORMAL ...
NORMAL ...

HEHE ...
NORM ...
...
NORM...
SMACK
HA HA HA HA!
...
PFFT!
HAH!
HA HA HA HA HA!
THAT WASN'T NORMAL AT ALL, IDIOT!

Ahahahah
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, CHIHARU WAS THE ONE WHO STARTED IT!
THEY IRRITATED YOU TOO MUCH HUH?
WELL SAID!
WELL THEN,
I LEFT SHIROU ALONE SO I'LL BE HEADING BACK FIRST.
I HAD A GOOD TIME BECAUSE OF YOU GUYS, SO THANKS.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR FROM THE BOSS? THAT TALK ABOUT THE NEW JOB.
ANSWER WHAT?
YOU THINK HE REALLY DID ANSWER?
HEY...
HE CAN'T BE TOGETHER WITH HIS KID ANYMORE STARTING NEXT YEAR
SLIP
WHOOSH

THIS BRIDGE WAS WHERE I EXCHANGED WORDS WITH HER FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.
AH... THIS TAKES ME BACK.
MASTER, I BELIEVE TAKING THE CARRIAGE WOULD BE BETTER.
BRUSH
ABOUT SHIROU AND ME FROM HERE ON...
SPARKLE
I...
WISH I COULD TALK WITH YOU AGAIN.

WHOOSH
THE WIND FEELS QUITE FINE, DOES IT NOT?
I WANT TO TAKE A WALK WHILE FEELING THE NIGHT BREEZE TONIGHT.
IT'S FINE.
F...
FATHER-
IN-LAW?
?!

KOMA'S NEW HOME, PART 3

SHAKE
SHAKE
AND THEN WE STICHED UP HER FACE.
IT WAS DIRTY SO WE CLEANED IT, AND FIXED THE FRAYS.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, WE COULD...
HOW IS IT?
...
SHIROU, KOMA IS DOING WELL.
YOU CAN GO WITHOUT TODAY'S MEAL.
WHATEVER, JUST HURRY AND WRITE A LETTER AND FIND A NEW FAMILY WITHOUT THESE GIRLS.
THAT'S GREAT!

EXTRA STORY 25- END

Chichikogusa

Chapter 30

BY TAGAWA MI

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CHICHIROGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

CHAPTER 30: SHIROU'S MEDICINE SHOP

SUCH A QUICK REPLY...
I'M WITH IEJI, SO IT'S ALL RIGHT!
YUP!
IS IT REALLY ALL RIGHT FOR PAPA TO TRAVEL ALONE?
HE'S GOTTEN HIMSELF TOGETHER TOO MUCH THESE DAYS, IT'S ALMOST BORING...
GLOOM
I WISH HE FELT A LITTLE SADDER.
!
TAP
IF YOU'RE A PARENT, IT SHOULD BE SOMETHING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? YOUR OWN SON'S GROWTH, BORING?!
You idiot!
SLAP

TAP
TAP
PAPA, THANKS FOR ALL YOUR WORK!
YOU CAN GO RELAX A LOT!
YOU...

JEEZ!
EEE!
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD BOY, SHIRO.
YOU CAME TO SEND YOUR FATHER OFF.
YUP...
AH, YES MA'AM!

SFX GRAB

PAPA HAS A HARD TIME.
HE HAS TO BE A MEDICINE SELLER AND SHIROU'S DAD.
BECAUSE,
SHIROU IS ALWAYS SHIROU, BUT...
YOU WERE LISTENING WHEN AUNTIE SAID THAT?
How troubling!
OH, MY.
ONCE IN A WHILE, HE NEEDS TO REST, RIGHT?
THE PART OF YOU THAT ACTS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAREST TO YOU INSTEAD OF YOURSELF IS JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER.
?!

WELL...
YOU KNOW MAMA?
!
SHE WAS A YOUNG LADY WITH A CUTE SMILE.
SOMETIMES CAME TO THIS SHOP TO BUY MEDICINE FOR HER YOUNGER BROTHER.
IT WAS A LONG WHILE AGO, BUT YOUR MOTHER...

THAT GIRL IS STILL LIVING INSIDE OF YOU, SHIRO, ISN'T SHE?
INSIDE SHIRO...?
BRUSH

OH, HELLO! GOOD EVENING.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
COME ON, LET'S GO INSIDE. AUNTIE HAS TO MAKE EVERYBODY'S DINNER. WHAT WILL YOU DO, SHIRO?
UMM...
WELL, WELL.
!
PLEASE, COME THIS WAY
MY SHOULDER'S BEEN HURTING.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
PEEK
DOES IT HURT WHEN YOU LIFT YOUR ARM?
YEAH, EVEN WHEN I'M SLEEPING, TOO.

SINCE WHEN?
I THINK IT WAS THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY...
THIS MEDICINE IS WHAT WE RECOMMEND IF YOU'RE CATCHING A COLD.
WOW!
THERE'S A LOT OF CUSTOMERS.
MAMA ALSO CAME HERE...
RUSTLE
CAW!

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO CLOSE THE STORE.
JIJI, YOU'RE QUITE LATE GETTING TO WORK TODAY.
Hmph!
HOP
TWEET
TWEET
TWEET
YAWN
FWIP
GASP
TWEET
FLOMP
TWEET

AH, PAPA HAD THIS ONE!
THERE'S ALL KINDS OF MEDICINES.
CAW!
Hmph!
WHOA!
PAPA TELLS ME I SHOULDN'T TOUCH MEDICINE ON MY OWN.
I'M ONLY LOOKING.
I KNOW!
STARE
SHAKE SHAKE
PEEK
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
IF THE MEDICINE DOESN'T AGREE WITH YOU, STOP DRINKING IT AND COME BACK AT ONCE.

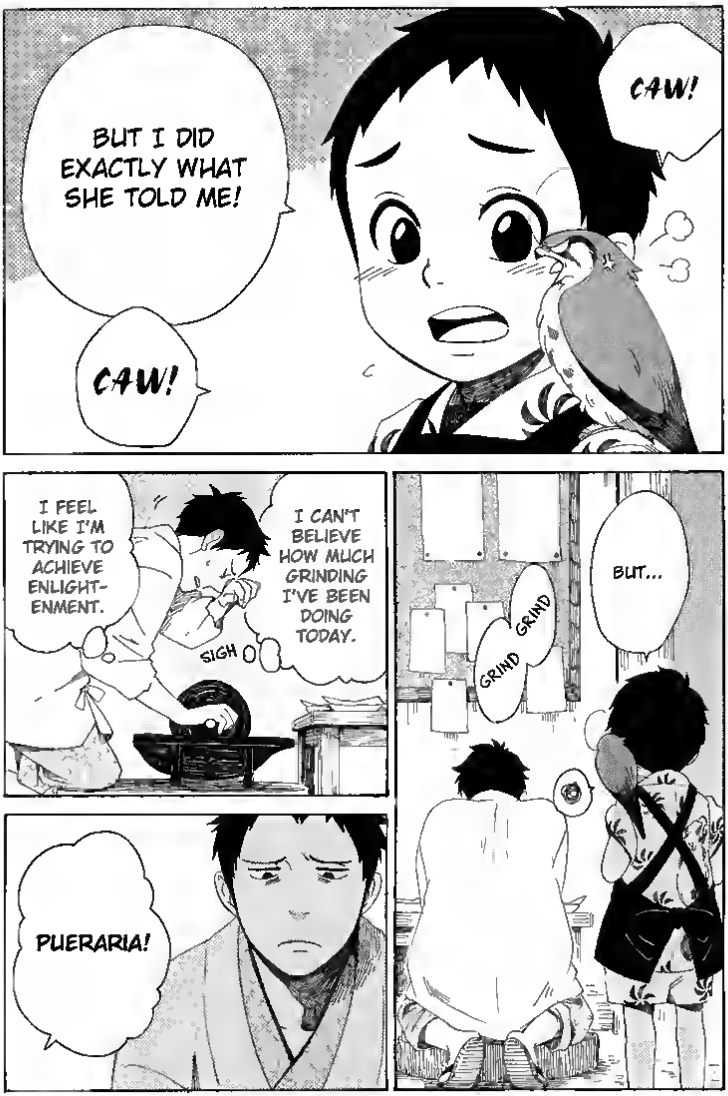
PAT PAT
P—
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
!
BOW
...
GLANCE
GLANCE
IEJI,
SHIROU'S A MEDICINE SELLER FOR NOW, OKAY?
SNEAK
SIGH

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
G-
GOOD EVENING!
EEK!
ドキッ
SFX BU-BUMP
HUH?
OH I'M SO GLAD. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY BECAUSE IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING. UM, THAT IS... CAN YOU TELL SOMETHING TO ONE OF THIS SHOP'S EMPLOYEES FOR ME?
SURE!
YES! SHIROU'S A MEDICINE SELLER!
OH,
A-ARE YOU A BOY FROM THIS SHOP?

KNOCK KNOCK
TELL SOMEONE EVEN OLDER THAN AN OLD MAN, NOT TO A YOUNG PERSON, OKAY?
WHISPER
WHISPER
SURE!
A LADY OUTSIDE SAID...
U-UMM...
HEY WHAT'S UP?
HMM?
FOR CONSTIPATION!
SHE NEEDS MEDICINE...
MUR
MUR
ガックッ

SFX SHOCK

AH, HELLO!?
SO EMBARRASSING!!
ひゅ
SFX: ZOOM
OH MY GOOOOSH, HE'S TOTALLY HOT!
SFX: GAAAAAAAAAH!
LOOKS LIKE AN OLD MAN TO SHIROU.
SFX: GASP
WE'RE BUSY OUT HERE. GO TO THE BACK!
IEJI, LOOK AFTER HIM PROPERLY!
SFX: STAGGER
SFX: THRUST, FLINCH
?
BLINK


CAW!
BUT I DID EXACTLY WHAT SHE TOLD ME!
CAW!
I FEEL LIKE I'M TRYING TO ACHIEVE ENLIGHT-ENMENT.
SIGH
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH GRINDING I'VE BEEN DOING TODAY.
BUT...
GRIND
GRIND
PUERARIA!

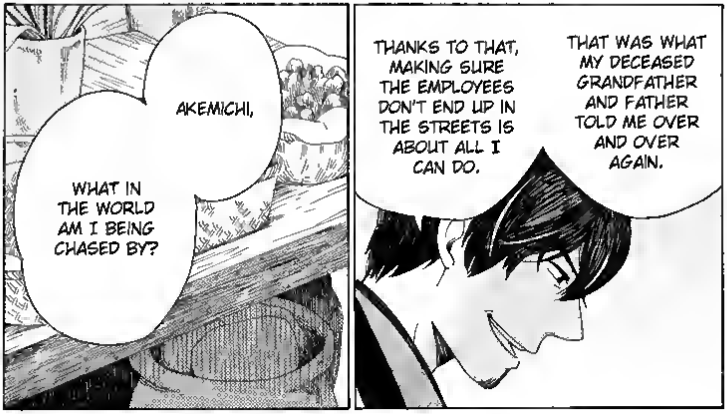
...
YOU THINK HE'S MAKING MEDICINE FOR THAT MAN WHO SAID HIS SHOULDER HURTS A WHILE AGO?
C+W
HUH...?
PUERARIA TAKES AWAY NECK AND SHOULDER STIFFNESS!
I'VE FINALLY SEEN HIM! THE HERBAL MEDICINE SPIRIT WHO'S SUPPOSED TO APPEAR IF YOU GRIND THE MORTAR 100,000 TIMES...
AH, K-KAJI!
CALM DOWN, STUPID.
PAWZ
RUFFLE
WHEN THE SHOP'S CLOSED, I'LL TAKE THE TIME TO SHOW YOU, SO GO TO THE BACK, OKAY?
SCRUNCH
SORRY, WE'RE BUSY RIGHT NOW.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOY? YOU'VE COME TO WATCH HOW MEDICINE IS PREPARED?

ACHOO!
A—
SFX WHOOSH
PUSH
ANYWAY, SEE YOU LATER, BOY!
MY HARD WORK!
AH, OOPS. I TOUCHED HIM WITH THE HAND I WAS USING TO HANDLE PEPPER.
...
CONDITIONS ARE TERRIBLE THIS YEAR.

THEN, THE PRICE WILL GO UP EVEN...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED, USE ONE THAT WAS PRODUCED HERE.
THE EFFICACY WILL BE REDUCED, TOO.
GOOD GRIEF, EVEN IF THE PRICE GOES UP BECAUSE OF THE DROUGHT, THEN AT THIS RATE
WASH OUT ANOTHER HERBAL MEDICINE THAT WAS PRODUCED IN THE SAME PLACE AS THIS.
YES!
SOU-SUKE!
RIGHT NOW?!
!
WE'LL MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE SOMEHOW.
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN LET THE QUALITY OF THE MEDICINE GO DOWN.
TELL THE BROKER I WILL SEE HIM TOMORROW STRAIGHT AWAY!
HIDE
PATTER
PATTER
YES!
DON'T ASK STUPID QUESTIONS!
DO YOU THINK I'D TELL YOU RIGHT NOW IF I WANTED YOU TO DO IT ANOTHER DAY?
GRAB
Y-
YESH.

PEEK
DON'T GO GETTING EXCITED THIS LATE IN THE EVENING, TOUJI.
THE STORE'S ALMOST AT IT'S LIMIT.
SIGH...

THINK OF THE CUSTOMER'S WELL-BEING FIRST.
DON'T SEEK PROFIT.


AKEMICHI,
WHAT IN THE WORLD AM I BEING CHASED BY?
THANKS TO THAT, MAKING SURE THE EMPLOYEES DON'T END UP IN THE STREETS IS ABOUT ALL I CAN DO.
THAT WAS WHAT MY DECEASED GRANDFATHER AND FATHER TOLD ME OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

TOUJI...
YOU—
THE CUSTOMERS, THE EMPLOYEES, MY FAMILY, THIS SHOP...
SOMETIMES I'M SO BUSY I LOSE SIGHT OF MY SURROUNDINGS, AND I START TO THINK I'M NEGLECTING ALL OF THEM IN THE END.
SHIROU'S A MEDICINE SELLER!
?
TUG
TUG

?
...
...
WHAT...?
UH...
WHAT BRINGS ME...
GLANCE
NOD
HUH?
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
?
PLEASE CROUCH DOWN.
WAVE
WAVE

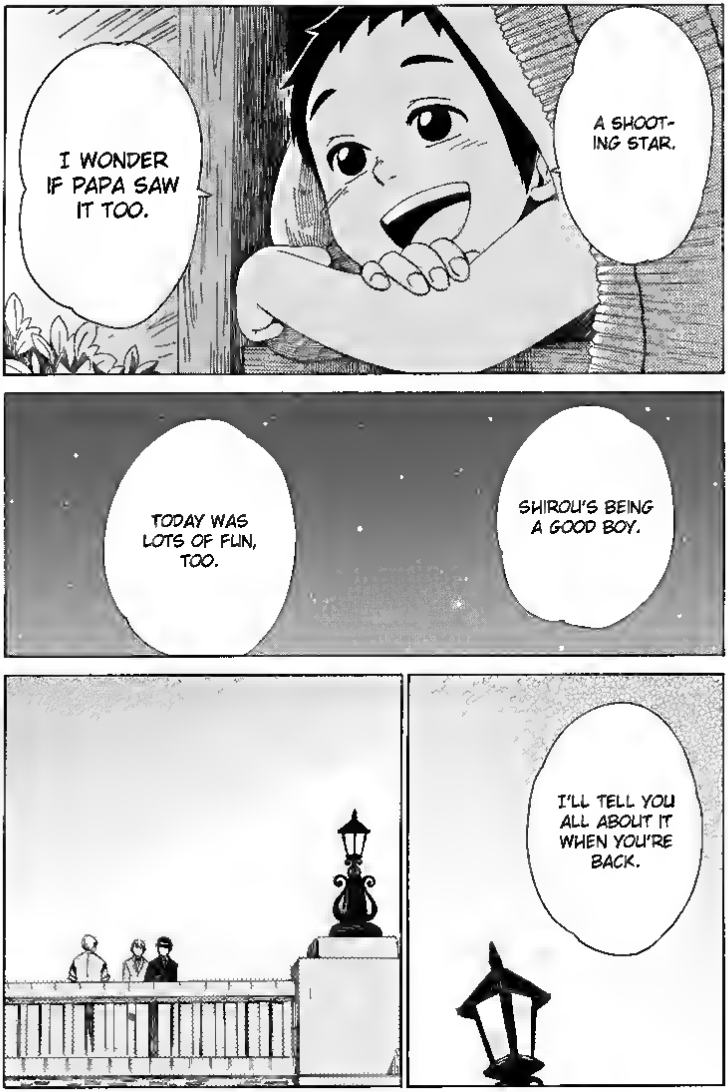
YOUR FACE IS TIRED.
I WILL GIVE YOU THE MEDICINE OF TAPPING SHOULDERS.
PFT.
?
TAP
TAP
TAP
?
SHIROU'S PAPA GETS BETTER WITH THIS!
OKAY, FINISHED!
OH,
AND...

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
WHEN YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD, IT'S ALSO NECESSARY TO RELAX ALL THE WAY!
HE'S A PRETTY GOOD MEDICINE SELLER
I'M SO TIRED I SAW THE HERBAL MEDICINE SPIRIT...
WHAT!?
FWIP
TAP TAP

MAN,
I'M SO HUNGRY!
TAP
RATTLE RATTLE
THANKS FOR THE MEAL! WOOHOO!
GOOD WORK, EVERYONE. PLEASE EAT A LOT!
LET'S GET YOU NICE AND DRY.
POOF
POOF
AH! THAT WAS THE LAST ONE!
MUNCH MUNCH
HOW CAN YOU EAT SO MUCH WHEN YOU WEREN'T EVEN WORKING TODAY?!

HE'S AN EASY CHILD TO HANDLE, ISN'T HE?
SIGH
ZZZZ...
GOOD-NIGHT.
CALL ME IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, IEJI.
PEEK
...
CLICK

SHIROU'S NOT ASLEEP YET!
Ha ha ha!
BOO!
GIGGLE GIGGLE
RUSTLE
AH.
RUSTLE
I'M GOING TO SURPRISE PAPA WHEN HE COMES BACK!
PATTER
PATTER

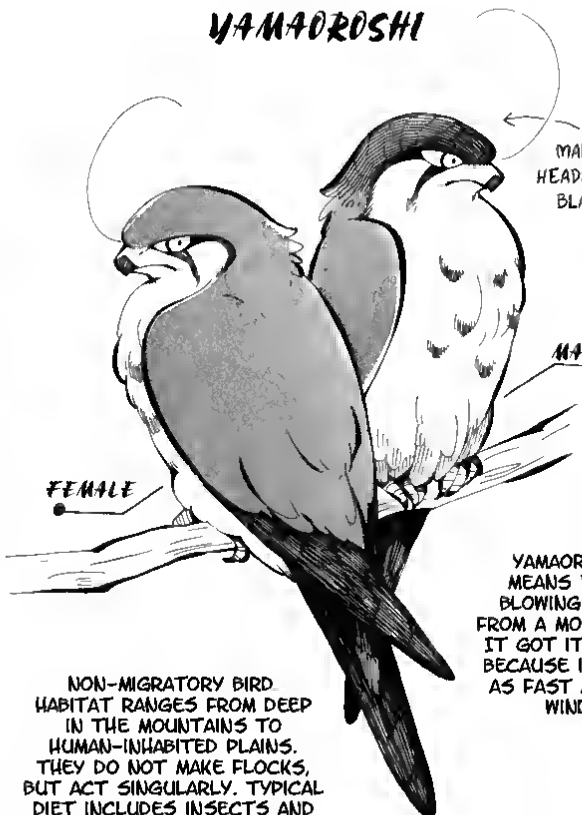

A SHOOT-ING STAR.
I WONDER IF PAPA SAW IT TOO.
SHIROU'S BEING A GOOD BOY.
TODAY WAS LOTS OF FUN, TOO.
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT WHEN YOU'RE BACK.

F—
FATHER-IN-...
LAW...?
...
TAP
THRUST
WHO ARE YOU?
IF YOU'RE BEGGING...

HUG
STEP
STEP
STEP
IS THAT YOU, TORA?
YEAH...
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

EXTRAS...
TOUJI
THIRD-GENERATION OWNER OF NANAKUSAYA WAS NOT SERIOUS WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER CAT-LOVER
MIKE
WHITE FEMALE SHE LOVES THE TOP HER OWNER'S SHOULDER
OKYOU
TOUJI'S WIFE SHE A MOTHER-LIKE FIGURE FOR THE LIVE-IN EMPLOYEES
MIIKO
BROWN AND WHITE MALE TABBY HIDES FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT FAMILY
2020
GREY MALE COMES OVER THE COUNTER (SOMETIMES) AND INTERACTS WITH CUSTOMERS
ARE MICHI
TAKAHIRO'S CARETAKER HE'S ALSO CHIHARU'S FATHER
屋仲々菜
THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE WORKING IN THE SHOP!

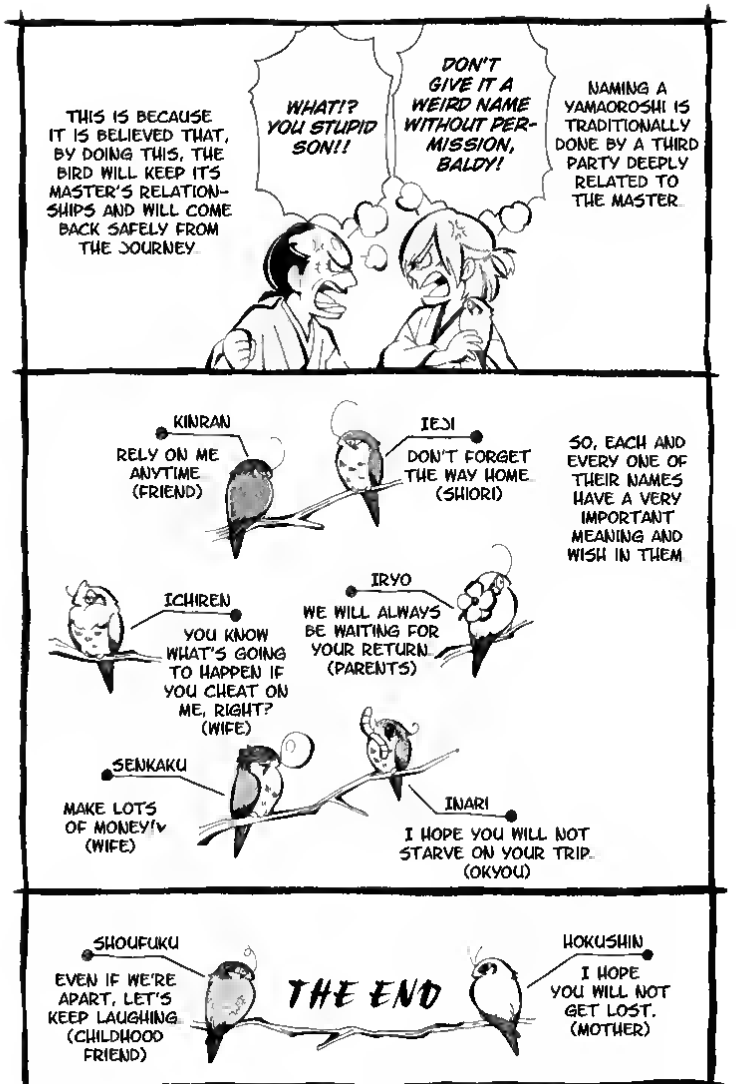
YAMAOROSHI



YAMAOROSHI MEANS "WIND BLOWING DOWN FROM A MOUNTAIN." IT GOT ITS NAME BECAUSE IT FLIES AS FAST AS THE WIND.

NON-MIGRATORY BIRD. HABITAT RANGES FROM DEEP IN THE MOUNTAINS TO HUMAN-INHABITED PLAINS. THEY DO NOT MAKE FLOCKS, BUT ACT SINGULARLY. TYPICAL DIET INCLUDES INSECTS AND SMALL MICE. MALE AND FEMALE BOTH CRY WITH A "CAW" SOUND. OTHER CRIES RANGE FROM SHARP SOUNDS LIKE "KE" AND "CHI" TO FAWNING SOUNDS LIKE "KIRURURU..."

SINCE MEDICINE SELLERS DO NOT STAY IN ONE SPOT, THEY ARE VERY HELPFUL WHEN CONTACTING OTHERS
CAW
(THIS WORLD'S) MEDICINE SELLERS ALL...
TAKE A YAMAOROSHI AS PARTNER
SIGNIFI CANT OTHER
THE BIRDS WILL NOT LEAVE FROM THOSE WHO THEY DECIDE AS THEIR MASTER FOR THEIR LIFETIME
WHEN MEDICINE SELLERS BECOME ADULTS, THEY GO TO THE MOUNTAIN WHERE YAMAOROSHI LIVE AND GET ONE THAT SUITS THEM FROM A PERSON WHO KEEPS BIRDS
THAT IS WHY YAMAOROSHI ARE ALSO CALLED THE MEDICINE SELLER'S GUARDIAN DEITY
HMPH!


THIS IS BECAUSE IT IS BELIEVED THAT, BY DOING THIS, THE BIRD WILL KEEP IT'S MASTER'S RELATIONSHIPS AND WILL COME BACK SAFELY FROM THE JOURNEY.
WHAT!? YOU STUPID SON!!
DON'T GIVE IT A WEIRD NAME WITHOUT PERMISSION, BALDY!
NAMING A YAMAOROSHI IS TRADITIONALLY DONE BY A THIRD PARTY DEEPLY RELATED TO THE MASTER.
KINRAN
RELY ON ME ANYTIME (FRIEND)
IESI
DON'T FORGET THE WAY HOME (SHIORI)
SO, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEIR NAMES HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT MEANING AND WISH IN THEM.
ICHIREN
YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IF YOU CHEAT ON ME, RIGHT? (WIFE)
IRYO
WE WILL ALWAYS BE WAITING FOR YOUR RETURN. (PARENTS)
SENKAKU
MAKE LOTS OF MONEY!~ (WIFE)
INARI
I HOPE YOU WILL NOT STARVE ON YOUR TRIP. (OKYOU)
SHOUFUKU
EVEN IF WE'RE APART, LET'S KEEP LAUGHING. (CHILDHOOD FRIEND)
THE END
HOKUSHIN
I HOPE YOU WILL NOT GET LOST. (MOTHER)

CHICHIKOGUSA - AFTERWORD

HELLO! THANKS TO ALL READERS, "CHICHIKOGUSA" IS ON ITS 5TH VOLUME! THANK YOU VERY MUCH! AS THE VOLUMES PILED UP, MORE CHARACTERS BECAME INVOLVED AND THE PLOT EXPANDED IN CONFUSION IN THE STORY THAT WAS ONLY ABOUT TWO PEOPLE, FATHER AND SON, IN THE FIRST THE VOLUME.

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME GETTING A SERIALIZATION AND GETTING THE FIRST VOLUME OUT AS IF IT WAS YESTERDAY. FROM NOW ON, WITHOUT FORGETTING THE BEGINNER'S HEART, I HOPE TO FACE THE MANUSCRIPT, SO I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT! WELL THEN, I WILL SEE YOU NEXT TIME IN THE 6TH VOLUME! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

TAGAWA MI

BROTHER-IN-LAW 'M' THANK YOU FOR FIXING MY WORK LAPTOP IT REALLY HELPED ME OUT

BLADE COMICS

ちちこぐさ ⑤

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